REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES

FOR THE YEAR 1866-67

BY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER.	SUBJECT.	PARAGRAPHS.
	Introduction	
I.	Judicial—	
	Section I.—Law	1 to 3
	„ II.—Civil Divisions and Districts ..	4 to 6
	„ III.—Civil Justice	7 to 20
	„ IV.—Criminal Justice	21 to 35
	„ V.—Police	36 to 45
	„ VI.—Jails	46 to 53
II.	Revenue—	
	Section I.—Land Tax	54 to 63
	„ II.—Other Taxes	64 to 72
	„ III.—Total Revenues	73 and 74
III.	Education	75 to 88
IV.	Public Works—	
	Section I.—Military Buildings	90 to 93
	„ II.—Civil Buildings	94
	„ III.—Irrigation Works	95
	„ IV.—Communications	96 to 100
	„ V.—Railways	101 to 104
	„ VI.—Godavery Navigation Works ..	105 to 108
	„ VII.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works	109 to 111
	„ VIII.—Total of Public Works	112
V.	Post Office	113 to 121
VI.	Electric Telegraph	122
VII.	Financial	123 to 138
VIII.	Ecclesiastical	139 and 140
IX.	Political	141 to 147
X.	Military	148 to 152
XI.	Forests	153 to 158
XII.	Census	159 and 169
XIII.	Jubbulpore Exhibition	170 to 179
XIV.	Miscellaneous—	
	Section I.—Agriculture	180 to 184
	„ II.—Cotton	185 to 195
	„ III.—Arboriculture	196 to 200
	„ IV.—Waste Lands	201 to 203
	„ V.—Mineral Resources	204 to 210
	„ VI.—Survey	211 to 213
	„ VII.—Fairs..	214 and 215
	„ VIII.—Trade Statistics	216 to 219
	„ IX.—Hospitals and Dispensaries.. ..	220 to 227
	„ X.—Public Health and Sanitation ..	228 to 235
	„ XI.—Improvement in the breed of horned Cattle, Horses, and Sheep	236 to 238
	„ XII.—Elephant Catching	239 to 241
XV.	Conclusion	242 to 266

INDEX.

CHAPTER I.—JUDICIAL.

SECTION I.—LAW.

	PARA.
Laws of the Central Provinces	1
Enactments of the year 1866-67	2
Formal extension of certain Regulations	3

SECTION II.—CIVIL DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS.

Balaghat District	4
Gadurwara and Seonee sub-divisions	5
Moorwara sub-division.	6

SECTION III.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

Judicial machinery unchanged	7
Law and Procedure	8
Increase in litigation	9
Classification of suits	10
Special kinds of suits	11
Duration of cases	12
Cost of suits	13
Classification of decisions	14
Arbitration	15
Appellate business	16
Execution of decrees	17
Small Cause Courts	18
Authorized Pleaders	19
Judicial Commissioner's general opinion	20

SECTION IV.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Aggregate of crime in the Central Provinces	22
Heinous crime	23
Murder	24

PARA.
Dacoity 25
Witchcraft 26
Minor crimes 27
Recovery of stolen property 28
Petty complaints 30
Despatch of business 31
Analysis of punishments 33
Procedure 34
Honorary Magistrates 35

SECTION V.—POLICE.

General results of Police work 37
Heinous crimes 38
Dacoity 39
Increase in petty theft and house-breaking 40
Measures of repression .. .. *ib.*
Treatment of bad characters 41
Landholders' police duties 42
General conduct of the Police 43
Violent deaths 44
Destruction of noxious animals 45

SECTION VI.—JAILS.

Jail buildings 46
Number of prisoners 47
Conduct of prisoners 48
Health of prisoners 49
Sanitary state of jails 50
Financial working of jails 51
Thuggee Institution at Jubbulpore 53

CHAPTER II.—REVENUE.

SECTION I.—LAND TAX.

Demand and collections of the year 54
Progress of the regular Settlement 55
Assessment of the land tax 56
Record of rights in the land 57
Proprietary right patents 58
Other operations of the Settlement 59
Records in revenue offices 60
Annual village papers 61
Suits between landlord and tenant 62
The harvests of the year 63

SECTION II.—OTHER TAXES.

	PARA.
Salt and sugar duties	64
Railway borne salt trade	65
Receipts of the year	66
Excise on liquor	67
Total excise receipts	68
Improvements in the excise system	69
Good effects of reduced consumption of liquor	70
Stamps	71
Pandhari tax	72

SECTION III.—TOTAL REVENUES.

Total revenues	73-74

CHAPTER III.—EDUCATION.

Educational machinery	75
General results of the year 1866	76
High class schools	77
Middle class schools	78
Desire for English education	79
Lower class schools	80
Normal schools	81
Aided schools	82
Mission schools	83
Indigenous schools	84
Female schools	85
Scholarships	86
School fees	87
General results	88
Results in Sumbulpore	*ib.*

CHAPTER IV.—PUBLIC WORKS.

SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

At Jubbulpore	91
At Saugor	92
At Kamptee and Nagpore	93

SECTION II.—CIVIL BUILDINGS.

Civil buildiings	94

Section III.—Irrigation Works.

	Para.
Irrigation works	95

Section IV.—Communications.

Communications	96
Kunhan bridge	97
Eastern and Southern roads	98
Road to Indore	99
Railway feeders	100

Section V.—Railways.

Railways in the Central Provinces	101
Line from Bombay to Jubbulpore	102
Branch line to Nagpore	103
Railway from Allahabad	104

Section VI.—Godavery Navigation Works.

Special Committee's report	105
Probable date for opening navigation	106
3rd Barrier	107
Flotilla on the Godavery	108

Section VII.—Miscellaneous and Municipal Works.

Total expenditure	109
Communications opened by Local Committees	110
Miscellaneous improvements	111

Section VIII.—Total of Public Works.

Total of Public Works	112

CHAPTER V.—POST OFFICE.

Provincial head of Postal department	113
Extent of Postal lines	115
Number of Post Offices	116
Correspondence	117
Expenditure	118
Mails conveyed by railway	119
New Post Office Act	120
Epizootic among Mail horses	121

CHAPTER VI—ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

PARA.
Electric Telegraph 122

CHAPTER VII.—FINANCIAL.

Statement of revenue and expenditure 123
Comparison of receipts for the last two years 124
Local fund receipts 125
Total public income 126
Forest revenue is not fully shown 127
Expenditure of the year 1866-67 128
General review of official salaries 129
Detailed account of the revision under its several heads— .. 130
Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners .. ..
Vernacular clerks in Deputy Commissioners offices .. ..
Compensatory allowances to Constables and others .. ..
Salaries of sub-divisional establishments .. ..
Temporary increase of pay to English clerks .. .. ..
Local Fund expenditure 131
Audit and account 132
Bank of Bengal 133
Currency note circulation 134
Money order system 135
Cost of Military Forces in the Central Provinces 136
Public Works expenditure 137
Aggregate expenditure of all kinds... 138

CHAPTER VIII.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

Chaplains 139
The building of churches 140

CHAPTER IX.—POLITICAL.

Feudatory chiefs 141
Rajah of Mukrai 142
Jug Sahai of Phooljhur 143
Boundary dispute in Kharonde 144
Boundary disputes among Gurjhat States 145
General revision of tributes 146
Punnah boundary 147

CHAPTER X.—MILITARY.

PARA.
Strength of the several garrisons 149
Health of the troops 150
Cantonment rules 151
Volunteers 152

CHAPTER XI.—FORESTS.

System of forest management 153
Reserved forests 154
Explorations 155
Unreserved forests 156
Financial results 157
Progressive increase of forest revenue 158

CHAPTER XII.—CENSUS.

Census of 1866 159
Agency employed 160
Affair passed off well 161
General results 162
Comparative density of population .. .. *ib.*
Towns and villages .. ..
Decrease in urban population. ... . } 163
Its probable causes .. ..
Proportion of sexes 164
Return of castes 165
Agricultural classes ... . *ib.*
Artizan castes 166
Aboriginal tribes 167
Return of callings 168
Value of census results 169

CHAPTER XIII.—JUBBULPORE EXHIBITION.

Exhibition of 1866 170
For the Nerbudda country 171
Aspect of the visitors ... ... *ib.*
Exhibition arrangements 172
Live-stock 173

PARA.
Machinery 174
Raw produce 175
Forest products 176
Minerals .. .. *ib.*
Manufactures... 177
Fine Arts 178
Effects left by the Exhibition 179

CHAPTER XIV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.—AGRICULTURE.

Area under the several crops... 180
Agricultural machinery 181
Propagation of trees and plants 182
Agri-Horticultural Society's finances 183
Gardens at out-lying districts 184

SECTION II.—COTTON.

Cotton season 185
Area under cotton crop 186
The season's out-turn 187
Cotton Commissioner's appointment 188
Improvement of cotton culture 189
Introduction of exotic cotton .. .. *ib.*
Improvement of the indigenous cotton 190
Extension of the Hingunghat variety 191
Preparation of the staple for market 192
Pressing Machinery 193
Transport of cotton by railway 194
Cotton Frauds Act 195

SECTION III.—ARBORICULTURE.

Rearing and planting of trees 196
Avenues planted by landholders 197
Expenditure of Local Committees 198
Arboriculture by Public Works Department 199
Total outlay on Arboriculture 200

SECTION IV.—WASTE LANDS.

Area of Government waste lands 201
Sales of waste lands 202
Clearance leases 203

SECTION V.—MINERAL RESOURCES.

	PARA.
Iron	204
Chindwara, or Pench valley coal	205
Nerbudda coal	206
Chanda coal	207
Sandstone rocks round Nagpore examined..	208
Importance of these coal discoveries	209
Slates	210

SECTION VI.—SURVEY.

Survey	211-213

SECTION VII.—FAIRS.

Fairs	214
Merchandise at Fairs...	215

SECTION VIII.—TRADE STATISTICS.

Trade Statistics	216-219

SECTION IX.—HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Number of Dispensaries	220
Number of patients treated..	222
Finances of Dispensaries	223
Vaccination department	225
Lunatic Asylums	226
Leper Asylum	227

SECTION X.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

Vital statistics	228
Mode of collection	229
General death-rate	230
Elements of error	231
Deaths from different diseases	*ib.*
Sanitation	232
Improved health of the people	233
Prohibition of certain Fairs...	234
Wells in Chutteesgurh	235

SECTION XI.—IMPROVEMENT IN THE BREED OF HORNED CATTLE, HORSES, AND SHEEP.

PARA.
Cattle breeding 236
Horse breeding 237
Sheep breeding 238

SECTION XII.—ELEPHANT CATCHING.

Capture of wild elephants 239
Transfer of the Khedda to Cuttack 240
Results of the Khedda operations 241

CHAPTER XV.—CONCLUSION.

Conclusion 242-266

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REPORT

ON THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES' ADMINISTRATION,

1866-67.

INTRODUCTION.

THE sixth Report of the Administration of the Central Provinces is now submitted, comprising mainly the proceedings of the year 1866-67. Following the custom of previous years, there will in this introductory Chapter be offered a brief general sketch of the condition of the country and the people during the year 1867.

So far as the government of these Provinces is concerned, one of the most notable events of the year 1867, was the departure of the late Chief Commissioner to fill an important office in another part of India. As the Administration of these provinces was first established by Mr. Temple, and as it has been consolidated during his five years' rule; it may be fitting, in the introduction to the first report prepared after his departure, briefly to review what has been done during the last few years for the good of the people and for the interests of the State in this part of India.

The regular Settlement of the land tax, with all its attendant operations has been pushed on vigorously and persistently. Over almost the whole of these provinces, all rights in the land have been investigated, defined, and recorded. A moderate land tax has been fixed for periods of twenty or thirty years. Every class interested in the land,—the Feudatories; the petty chiefs who own large estates; the ordinary landholders; the proprietors of holdings, and the occupiers of fields,—each one now knows what his absolute and relative rights in the land are, and what are his

obligations, either towards the public treasury or towards his feudal superior. So closely are the interests of the people and the State interwoven that, while all these matters have been arranged, it has been found feasible at the regular Settlement to raise the Government land tax from fifty-four to fifty-eight lakhs of rupees per annum (or from £540,000 to £580,000). And while ownership over all the cultivated land, and over a large extent of waste, has been recognized in private landholders, the rights of the State in unoccupied waste lands have been asserted and defined. In this way, some twenty-four thousand square miles of waste land have been marked off as State property. From these wastes considerable annual revenue already accrues; and further fiscal increase may be expected from this source.

By establishing an approved judicial system; by organizing police, and by enforcing sanitation, effort has been made to provide security for life and property. The aggregate of crime committed is as great as, or indeed greater than it was five years ago. But while crimes which are the result of passion continue to occur; and while petty offences against property are still rife; crimes of violence, such as gang robbery, affray, and the like, have been put down. Within the last year there have also been signs that the careful watching of the criminal classes has effected something towards the repression of petty crime. The most influential class in the country, the landholders, now give much active assistance towards keeping down and punishing crime.

Great progress has also been made in improving the Judiciary. The vernacular of the country has everywhere been made the language of our Courts. Promptitude in the disposal of magisterial business is general; while at the same time, adherence to law and procedure is enforced by precept and by supervision. An unpaid magistracy, consisting of landowners and other Native gentlemen of influence and integrity, has been called into existence in every district. The sixty or seventy Honorary Magistrates, who hold Courts in our cities and towns, transact one-fifth of the magisterial business of the country, with credit to themselves, and with satisfaction to the people.

If the popularity and success of our Civil Courts may be evidenced by the annually increasing number of suitors, then it may be well to note, that when Mr. Temple first assumed the direction of affairs in these Provinces, there were nineteen thousand original Civil suits instituted annually, and that during the last year of his administration there were forty-five thousand original causes. In the chief cities of the country, Small Cause Courts, presided over by selected judges, have been established. Promptitude in the disposal of Civil cases has been secured; and during the last three years, the time occupied by an average case from its institution to its decision has ranged from fourteen to sixteen days.

Portions of the Central Provinces have borne a name for insalubrity; and epidemic disease has in former years made much havoc along certain traffic routes. To combat disease, there were in the year 1862 sixteen Dispensaries; there are now fifty-six of these institutions, at which one hundred and forty thousand sufferers are treated annually. A special agency has been organized for spreading vaccination, and tens of thousands of children are now annually protected from small-pox. Conservancy, and water-supply arrangements have done much to mitigate disease in our cities and towns. Many of our towns can now, in respect of cleanliness, of conservancy, and of the rate of mortality, vie with the best cities in Northern India. Much effort, not wholly without result, has been made towards the inculcation and the observance of sanitary rules in country towns and villages. Epidemic cholera was found to spread itself over the country at fixed times of the year. And there were good grounds for believing that it was engendered at some of the fairs, or religious gatherings, which took place at trying seasons of the year. At any rate, it was quite clear that the disease was disseminated by pilgrims returning from these gatherings. Accordingly, the holding of such fairs in these provinces at the unhealthy season was, in the interest of the public health, prevented; and, where gatherings of the kind occurred outside our border, the passage of pilgrims to and fro along our roads was discouraged. Even the natives themselves now admit that cholera has been a less frequent and less fatal visitor, since these measures have been taken.

While the material and moral prosperity of the people has been advanced, their intellectual advancement has also received attention. Government schools of various grades have been established in towns and villages. A regular department for their supervision has been organized. Aid and support of all kinds have been given to the educational institutions established by Missionary bodies, and to the rural schools opened by benevolent Native gentlemen. In 1861 there were about three hundred and fifty schools, with fourteen thousand scholars, there are now in these provinces, fifteen hundred and seventy schools with fifty-eight thousand scholars. During the last year about four lakhs of rupees (£40,000) were spent on education in the Central Provinces. Of this sum, nearly a lakh of rupees (£10,000) were contributed by private individuals.

The physical improvement of the country has also received a great impulse during the last five years. The area over which operations were extended was so vast, compared with the means at command, that it may seem as if no great impression had been made. Still, something has been done. In the matter of communications, we have now four hundred miles of made road, metalled and bridged; whereas there were only seventy miles in the year 1861. About one hundred and fifty miles more are under construction. Many miles of feeder roads to the several railway stations are being made by the local Committees.

The great Godavery navigation scheme, begun before 1862, has been pushed on; its merits have been discussed; its designs have been reconsidered and finally settled; and the time is now not far distant when trade on the Godavery will actually begin. Several useful irrigation schemes have been devised; and though the irrigation department has yet hardly put a spade into the ground, yet much valuable information has been gathered; and projects have been planned on which work will, during the current year, really begin. It would be tedious to tell of all the Military and Civil buildings which have been erected during the last five years. Churches, barracks, magazines, court-houses, hospitals, rest-houses for travellers, museums, police stations, public offices of all kinds, have been constructed, according as funds permitted, and as public requirements dictated.

With the construction of railways,—a work beside which all other physical improvements are dwarfed,—the executive Government of these provinces has indeed no direct concern. But such indirect assistance, as may have been possible, has been given. None know so well, as the constructors of these great works, the extent and value of the support they received from Mr. Temple's administration. His occasional exhortations to increased exertion may also have had salutary effect in procuring the early completion of the railway system in these territories.

Nor has the work of local improvement been limited by the grants which could be made from the general revenues, and from local and municipal funds. Private persons have in some number come forward to construct from their own funds, works of public ornament and utility. Hospitals, travellers' rest-houses, squares, school-houses, wells, erected during the last few years by private benevolence, adorn many of our towns and road-sides.

The public revenue has also received full attention. A forest department has been organized, which conserves the timber resources of the country, and at the same time yields a revenue of four lakhs of rupees (£40,000) a year. The salt tax, which in the year 1861 afforded an income of nine lakhs of rupees (£90,000) per annum, now realizes eighteen lakhs (£180,000) a year. And this increase has been gained without raising the rate of duty, or burdening the poor. Indeed, at the present moment the retail price of salt at Nagpore is cheaper than it has been for the last seven years. The liquor excise revenue has been placed on a sound footing; and those parts of the fiscal system which were found to encourage intemperance have been done away with. The stamp revenue has during the last five years more than doubled. The burden of certain local assessed taxes which used to press upon the poorer classes, has been transferred to the rich, with benefit both to the people and to the public treasury.

If the material prosperity of a country can in any way be gauged by statistics of revenue and production, then it is worthy of note that, during the last year, the people of the Central Provinces paid into the public treasury one hundred

and twenty-one lakhs of rupees (£1,210,000) as compared with eighty-two lakhs (£820,000) in 1862; that, during the past year, they voluntarily contributed about three and half lakhs of rupees (£35,000) to charitable objects, to public and local improvements, to educational purposes, and to industrial Exhibitions, whereas in 1862 they scarcely gave a rupee towards things of the kind; that during the last twelve months they exported to other provinces four hundred and thirty-four lakhs of rupees (£4,340,000) worth of produce and manufactures, as compared with one hundred and sixty-five lakhs' (£1,650,000) worth in 1863, the earliest year for which we possess statistics;—that they imported during the past year four hundred and sixty-four lakhs of rupees (£4,642,000) worth of foreign commodities, exclusive of bullion, whereas they imported only ninety-eight lakhs' (£980,000) worth in the year 1863.

Whatever of progress has been noted in the foregoing paragraphs, was secured during Mr. Temple's rule. No such progress had been seen in this part of India before. Much of it may, nay must be due to the action of natural, commercial, and social forces. But something, at any rate, may have been the result of good government; and must have been due to the personal exertions of Mr. Temple, to the system which he introduced, and to the body of Officers whom he trained.

Perhaps among the many ways in which Mr. Temple benefitted the Central Provinces, that service will not be reckoned the least important which he rendered by placing before the Supreme Government and the public, full reports of the country, its people, its resources, its capabilities, and its trade. His thorough knowledge of the country, gained in many long and arduous journeys, performed at all seasons of the year, enabled him to report fully upon schemes for roads, for railways, for irrigation, for navigation, for mining enterprize, the full accomplishment of which will hardly be seen by the present generation.

The special subject of this Introduction, namely, the condition of the country and the people, during the last six months of 1866 and the first six months of 1867, may now be resumed.

The seasons, as affecting the autumn harvest of 1866, and the spring harvest of 1867, were in all respects favourable. Early rains made the parched land ready for the sower; there was an interval of propitious weather for the young plants to sprout; occasional and sufficient rain fell while the crops were growing. When the autumn staples were ripening the clouds held off: and a full harvest of rice, of cotton, and of millet, was successfully garnered. Over the whole country, but more especially in the northern tracts, ample winter showers fell and gave vigour to the young wheat, and to other spring crops. When the time came round, a good harvest of wheat, of oil-seeds, and pulses gladdened the husbandman.

Four or five years had passed since good autumn and spring harvests had been reaped in one season. Indeed, for two or three years, the food crops have been short. The two successive harvests of the past year, everywhere full, and in some parts even abundant, have been of immense benefit to the farmers and to the country generally. Indeed, if the yield of corn had been again short, there must have been much, perhaps even wide-spread distress and misery. In an Indian province there are usually large stores of corn in the hands of grain-dealers or farmers, on which the community can fall back in a year of scarcity. In ordinary times these stores are replenished as each spring crop is garnered, and they are not drawn upon until the next wheat sowings come round. But there had been in these provinces slender harvests for three or four years. And, concurrent with short production, there had been, under the stimulant of almost famine prices, a large and continuous export of food grains to the cotton districts of Berar and Bombay, and to the opium growing tracts of Malwa. It thus happened that the granaries of the country where almost exhausted.

In July 1866, when last year's report was submitted, the price of corn was very high; it had been steadily rising for some time, and there was prospect of still further advance. There were signs of distress: and many classes of the population were much pinched. Large demands were made on private charity; demands which among a Hindoo community are rarely disregarded. Regular relief operations were organized at the principal cities. And during the earlier part of

the autumn, as much as four hundred rupees (£40) contributed by the citizens, were spent every month in Nagpore in providing a single daily meal for the destitute poor.

The dearness culminated in September, when the average price of wheat for the whole of these territories was ten seers for a rupee (or fifty shillings a *quarter). In the dearest tracts the price was six and half seers for a rupee; in the cheapest district it was sixteen seers for a rupee. At that time the prospect was dark. An experienced official, speaking of his autumn tour through the best wheat growing tracts in the country, wrote thus:—

"Having been thus blessed with a good harvest, we shall never "know how near we were to a scarcity of food, approaching to famine "in some parts of the country. But in September and October last "there were some grounds for anxiety. Prices were extremely high, "and although opinions about the amount of grain in store were con-"flicting, I never remember observing so many village grain pits yawn-"ing with emptiness. On the other hand, the supply of work for "labourers had decreased, owing partly to the time of year, and partly "to the advanced state of the railway works. And while a general "complaint of hard times was everywhere heard, stories began to be "told of individual suffering from want of food."

In October the prospects of the autumn harvest became known; and things became a little better. As the crop ripened; as the spring cereals came on; and as they in turn were garnered, prices continued to fall. And now, at the time of writing, the average price of wheat over the whole country is eighteen seers for a rupee, (or twenty-eight shillings a quarter). The lowest price now ruling in any district is thirty-two seers for a rupee; and the highest is nine seers for a rupee. At the present time there are no signs of distress; all classes seem contented and well to do. Special relief arrangements are no longer required, save at Sumbulpore, where prices are affected by the dark shadow of famine in the neighbouring province of Orissa.

The productiveness of the land during the past year has restored vigour to the important traffic, which for the previous twelve months had somewhat waned, whereby the corn lands of the Nerbudda valley, and the rice fields of Chutteesgurh

* At 63lbs per bushel.

supply food grains to the hungry regions of the west. During the last six months, Nagpore and the cotton tracts around it have drawn two hundred and sixty thousand maunds (9,630 tons) of grain from Chutteesgurh; and three hundred and sixty-two thousand maunds (13,407 tons) from the Jubbulpore country. Large supplies of rice and wheat, amounting to five hundred thousand maunds (18,518 tons) have also been sent from Nagpore and the Nerbudda valley to the markets of Berar, Khandeish, and Malwa. The recent opening of the railway to Nagpore has given an impulse to this trade. For weeks together, five or six hundred bags of rice a week used to be despatched westwards from the Nagpore terminus. Then again, food grains, chiefly rice, to the amount of sixty-one thousand maunds (2,260 tons) have been sent from Sumbulpore, down the Mahanuddy river, to the famine stricken districts of Orissa. A considerable export of wheat also occurred from the Nerbudda valley towards Mirzapore. Some years back large quantities of produce used to go by this route. But of late years the markets of Malwa, of Nagpore, and of Berar, have attracted all the surplus produce of the Nerbudda country. The circumstance that thousands of carts which had brought railway material to Jubbulpore, were available to carry grain to Mirzapore, may explain this partial revival of an old trade.

While the export traffic in grain has been brisker than in any previous year, the cotton trade has also been active. The price of cotton has, indeed, ruled lower than during the three foregoing years. But then the market has been steadier, and the variations of price have been much smaller. In former years the price of Hingunghat cotton at Liverpool has been up to 25*d.* and down to 6*d.* a pound. During the last year it has ranged between 9*d.* and 13*d.* a pound; and it has stood generally at about 11*d.* Good authorities consider that it would be the best thing possible for the cotton trade of these parts, if the Liverpool price of Hingunghat cotton were to settle down steadily to about 10*d.* a pound. The possibility of enormous gains and enormous losses,—which imbues the merchant with something of a gambler's spirit,—would then disappear. Such loss as accrued on the cotton trade of the last year, fell mainly on the large dealers who

bargained for cotton in January, when Liverpool quotations were 13*d.* a pound; and who sold in April when they had fallen to 9*d.* a pound. The producers and local dealers had, for the most part, realized on their cotton before prices declined. The total yield of the cotton fields of these territories during the past year is estimated to have been thirty-two and a half millions of pounds; and seven and a half millions of pounds were imported from Berar. Of this total twenty-nine millions of pounds, or about 72,990 bales of 400lbs. each, were exported to Bombay.

Much has been done during the past year to improve cotton culture, and to promote the development of the cotton trade. A Cotton Commissioner has been appointed, whose especial business it will be to introduce superior kinds of cotton, or to improve the indigenous staple; to perfect the processes whereby cotton is picked, cleaned and packed; and to facilitate its export by such arrangements as may be possible. The measures taken in former years in this direction are already bearing fruit. Regarding the cotton crop of 1867, a leading Bombay firm, which has traded in Indian cotton for many years, writes,—"the Hingunghat cotton is parti-" cularly good, and the way that it is sent down to market, " is a credit to the grower and the dealer."

The export trade in Nagpore cotton fabrics continues to be considerable. Though according to the trade returns, there is a very slight falling off in the amount and value of this traffic.

The bulk and value of the foreign commodities imported into Nagpore are very much larger than in any previous year. This result is doubtless owing mainly to the opening of two railway lines, one into the heart of the Nagpore country, and one into the Nerbudda valley. The import of English piece-goods, which had declined somewhat in the foregoing year, is now larger than it ever was before. According to the trade returns, over two thousand tons of piece-goods, valued at sixty-six lakhs of rupees (£660,000), were brought into the Central Provinces during the year 1866-67. The traffic in hardware, in machinery, and miscellaneous foreign goods

has also increased largely. The workshops and warehouses of Bombay are now brought so near to Nagpore, that our Engineers actually find it economical to get up by railway from Bombay machine sawn planks, and machine made doors and windows.

Though the price of necessaries has fallen, yet the wages of labour continue at about the same high rate which they attained two years ago. Since the completion of the railway works, there may have been some small fall in the wages of the most unskilled class of labourers. But even for workers of that class there is still an immense demand in the rural districts, where the business of weeding, of picking cotton, and indeed, all farming work is, as yet, imperfectly done. The wages of skilled labour, of artizans, of domestic servants, and of craftsmen of all kinds are as high, or even higher than ever. The measures which have, under the orders of the Supreme Government, been taken to make the salaries of public servants more nearly in proportion to the market price of labour, are described in a subsequent Chapter of this report.

The commercial classes complain that the past year has not been a year of profit to them. In so far that the land-holding community are now well off, and have little occasion to borrow money or corn at usurious rates of interest, there may be some truth in this statement. It may also be the case that trade competition is becoming freer and more brisk; that while transactions are becoming multiplied, the profit on each operation is more limited. In illustration of what is meant, it may be interesting to consider the grain trade between Nagpore and the eastern districts, the salt and piece-goods trade between Nagpore and Bombay; and to compare the trade, as it is now, with what it was three or four years back.

Formerly, a farmer in Chutteesgurh or Bhundara was always in debt; he had to borrow money and corn at the sowing season, and had no choice but to assign his next crop to his banker at such rates as the creditor might dictate. In this way large dealers could get into their hands at low rates the bulk of the crop over considerable tracts of country.

They carried the produce to the dearest markets, and realized large profits. Now-a-days the farmer is free from debt, and has money and corn in hand. He is under no necessity of hypothecating his crop. And when it is reaped he can himself take it where he likes. In this way the farmer secures for himself a large share of the profit, which used to go to the money-lender and the grain-seller. Last spring, as soon as the harvest work was over, endless strings of carts from Chutteesgurh, and from the Wyngunga country, brought rice, wheat, and pulse, into the marts of Nagpore and Kamptee; or even passed through the Nagpore country, en route for the dearer markets of Berar. The farmers, who drove the carts and owned the produce, seemed to regard these journeyings as a pleasant way of spending what would be otherwise a dull season of the year, and as a sure mode of getting a full price for their grain.

Again, in the salt or piece-goods trade, large sums had formerly to be remitted to Bombay; the goods had to be bought, and then to be dragged on carts, or carried on pack-bullocks, over cross country tracks, for hundreds of miles. And for their safety and protection it was necessary that such convoys should be pretty large. Three months at least must in such cases elapse before the consignment could reach Nagpore. Two months more must pass before the money could again be available for fresh ventures. None but wealthy dealers could embark in business of this kind. Petty merchants could not afford to have their money so long idle. And accordingly, the great traders, released from competition, made proportionately large profits. Now the procedure is widely different. A dealer tells his correspondent at Bombay to send him up a hundred bags of salt, or a couple of bales of piece-goods, and to draw on him for the amount. Ten days after the order was sent, the consignment, whether it be large or small, is delivered at Nagpore free of risk of all kinds. And the consequence is that, whereas two years ago the salt and piece-goods trade between Nagpore and Bombay was in the hands of half a dozen large dealers, there are now scores of petty traders, who get up consignments on their own account, and are content with small profits, so long as they can turn their money over quickly.

Similarly, a revolution has taken place in the character of the rice trade with Berar and Khandeish. This traffic was formerly confined to a few Kamptee and Oomrawuttee firms. Since the railway opened to Nagpore it has become a common practice for petty dealers, to buy fifty or sixty bags of rice at the Kamptee weekly market; to put the rice on the railway waggons; to take it to Sheogaum in Berar; to sell it on market day there; and to come back with the money within four days. So again with the trade in silver coin, or in bullion. Formerly the business of getting up money from Bombay, on fast trotting camels and under an armed guard, used to be a lucrative though tedious traffic, in which only a few bankers with long purses could embark. Now every dealer who wants silver to pay for his cotton at Hingunghat can get it up by railway in two days with perfect safety.

In these ways, it may really be the case that excessive profits cannot now be realized on a few large transactions. But then, on the other hand, trade is brisker, competition is keener; and commercial transactions are more extensive. And the country, and the people generally are benefitted.

While these changes have been taking place the several Government departments have been making steady progress. The Settlement of the land tax has been finally completed for ten districts; the revised assessments have been formally confirmed; and the large establishments which were employed on settlement operations have been broken up. The land tax is now everywhere moderate. Landowners are becoming year by year more prosperous. Rents are steadily, though slowly rising. The price of land too, is higher than it ever was before. According to the returns for the past year, the selling price of land in only four districts is less than five times the land tax to which it may be assessed. In one district, land sold for thirteen times; in another for seventeen times; and in a third for twenty times the annual land tax assessed upon it. The margin of cultivation is everywhere extending, while the margin of waste is receding. Near the large towns, wealthy bankers, who formerly restricted themselves to money-lending and corn-dealing, are now buying waste lands or bidding for such estates as may

be in the market. Perhaps, this circumstance is as good evidence as we could have, that farming is a more lucrative *business than it was in these territories.*

Education also is making its way by degrees. The number of schools of all kinds, and of scholars is increasing. And the people themselves are taking more and more interest in, and contributing more liberally towards education. The desire for English learning is spreading. In about thirty towns the residents subscribed, during the past year, funds towards opening English classes. In one district, Sumbulpore, a regular system of popular education has, within the last three years sprung into existence. During the last year the people of this one district subscribed twenty-five thousand rupees (£2,500) towards educational purposes. With the help of grants of money from the public treasury there are now two hundred and eight schools in the Sumbulpore district; and one child to every thirty souls of the population is under instruction.

A census of the population of these Provinces, the first ever taken, was effected during the year. All the people were counted on one night in the autumn. The business of counting was easily and quietly done; the people themselves gave cordial aid to the operation, and the results obtained are considered to be fairly reliable. The total population of the Central Provinces amounts, according to the census, to a little more than nine millions of souls. The returns of tribes; of professions; of sexes, collected on this occasion, are of much interest; and they will, it is hoped, form a valuable basis for judicial, administrative and fiscal statistics.

The public revenues have been punctually realized during the past year. And the total receipts are five and half lakhs of rupees (£55,000), about six per cent in excess of the income for the preceding year. Expansion has been apparent under all heads of revenue, save the salt duties. The opening of the railway to Nagpore caused a temporary lull in the salt trade; and the Customs receipts were proportionately affected. Since the close of the official year the trade has more than recovered itself.

Public improvements of various kinds have been pushed on, as far as means admitted. Among buildings required for departments of the public service, barracks, jails, court-houses,

have made much progress during the past year. The scheme for making the Godavery navigable will shortly be in part accomplished. After the operations of one more year, another long reach of this noble river, from the first to the second barrier, will be open to steamers. The work of metalling and bridging roads has gone on. One, the most important of our roads, from Nagpore to Jubbulpore is now nearly completed. The eastern road, and the cotton roads of the southern districts are progressing towards completion. An important commercial and military road from Saugor to the railway is in hand. When these roads are ready, a beginning will have been made. But the country is large, the soil in parts is unfavourable, and the natural obstacles to road-making are very great. Many years must elapse before a system of roads, sufficient for the wants of the country and of the traffic shall have been provided.

Happily, these provinces are not dependent, for their arterial communications, upon the unavoidably slow progress attainable with grants from the public revenues. Three railway lines belonging to two great companies, pass through the heart of these territories. One of these railways was opened to Nagpore, for public traffic, in the month of February last. And Nagpore is now within thirty hours' travel of Bombay and the sea-board. Another has penetrated over a hundred miles into the Nerbudda valley, and will within a year or two, run for three hundred and fifty miles through the richest parts of the Central Provinces. The third railway is complete, and has now established through communication between Jubbulpore and the Nerbudda country on the south, and the Ganges valley on the north. The changes which these railways will surely and speedily work in the ways of the people; in the trade; and in the prosperity of the country, are too vast to be spoken of here. In other parts of India, and in Europe generally, railways have been preceded by a network of roads and of canals, on which the traffic of the country had been carried for years. The northern districts of these provinces had indeed a good and improvable road between Jubbulpore and Mirzapore, by which connection could be kept up with the Ganges and Calcutta. But the Nagpore country, the lower districts of the Nerbudda valley and Chutteesgurh, were utterly land-locked.

It took two months for a consignment of piece-goods or salt to get from Bombay to Nagpore. Such journeys could be only made at favourable seasons of the year, and at great expense. For five months out of every twelve, all the carts in the country were taken to pieces and laid by, until the open season came round again. To these parts then the benefit conferred by railways, supplemented by a system of roads, will indeed be indefinite. In a previous paragraph of this Chapter, mention has been made of the revolution already working in the salt and other import trades. It may be well to mention here one of the many boons which the railway has already conferred on the poorer classes. During the last seven years the retail price of salt at Nagpore has ranged from five seers to six and half seers a rupee (from $1\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* to $2\frac{1}{2}$*d.* a pound). Since the salt trade and the Customs department have been adapted to the requirements of railway traffic, the retail price of salt at Nagpore has ranged from seven and a half to eight and a half seers for the rupee (from $1\frac{1}{3}$*d.* to $1\frac{1}{2}$*d.* a pound). This immediate cheapening of an article of universal consumption is a benefit which will be appreciated by every family in the country. It were perhaps unnecessary to add here that material benefits are not the only advantages which the people are deriving from the opening of railway communication. Men are beginning to travel to and fro in great numbers. Hundreds, and even thousands of men who in former times never journeyed ten miles away from their homes are now carried by rail to Bombay, to Indore, to Poonah, to Calcutta and to Delhi. Railway travellers of this kind cannot but see something new; they can hardly fail to imbibe fresh ideas; to some extent their intelligence must be improved. Indeed, the impulse which will in this way be given to the intellectual development of the people can hardly be estimated too highly.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

CHAPTER I.

JUDICIAL.

SECTION I.—LAW.

Laws of the Central Provinces.

IN previous Reports it has been explained that the general body of the Laws and Regulations which obtain in other parts of the Bengal Presidency, are observed in the Central Provinces.

Enactments of the year 1866-67.

2. Among the enactments of the Imperial Legislature during the year 1866-67, the following may be noticed as more particularly affecting the law or the practice of these Provinces :—

Act XX. of 1866, the Indian Registration Act, has been extended to the Central Provinces. A Registrar General has been appointed; rules have been drawn up and published; and the whole machinery required by the Act is now in full working order.

Act III. of 1867, for the prevention of public gambling, has been in force since it was passed, so far as the clauses regarding gambling in the public streets are concerned. The extension to particular towns of the sections regarding keeping a common gaming house is under consideration.

Act XIV. of 1867, the Pandhari Act, has placed upon a sound legal basis an impost, akin to a license tax, which has for centuries obtained in these Provinces.

Act XV. of 1867, the Punjab Municipal Committees' Act, will legalize and regulate the collection and application of municipal funds in the scores of towns to which its extension has been sanctioned.

Act XXI. of 1867, the Indian Licenses Act, and Act XXVI. of 1867, the new Stamp Duties Act, did not come into operation until the close of the year under report. Natives of these Provinces who pay the Pandhari tax are exempted from the operation of the License Act.

Act XXV. of 1867, for the regulation of printing-presses and newspapers, and for the registration and preservation of copies of books, has come into force. The business of registering books has been entrusted to the Curator of the Government book depôt, Nagpore. A copy of every book which may hereafter be printed in these Provinces, will be deposited in the library of the public Museum at Nagpore.

Act XXVII. of 1867, which modifies the "Central Provinces Courts' Act," and enables Deputy Commissioners to distribute Civil judicial business among their subordinates, will remove a difficulty which had begun to clog the wheels of justice in tracts where judicial business was heaviest.

Formal extension of certain Regulations.

3. During the year a list of the Acts and Regulations of the Bengal Presidency which could usefully be extended to these Provinces was drawn up, and the Viceroy in Council was solicited formally to make them applicable to the Central Provinces, under the authority of Act I. of 1865 (the Acts and Regulations' Extension Act). The matter is still under the consideration of the Supreme Government.

SECTION II.—CIVIL DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS.

Balaghat District.

4. The administrative arrangement of the Central Provinces into Divisions, or Commissionerships, and Districts, or Zillahs, remains for the most part, the same as heretofore. But during the year 1866-67 certain changes were effected which, without adding to the number of our Officers, have materially strengthened the judicial and executive machinery. On the eastern bank of the Wynguuga, just above the spot where that river debouches from the Sautpoora hills, is a large extent of upland country, abounding in well watered expanses of rich, virgin soil. This tract, about 2,500 square miles in area, comprises parts of the Mundla, the Seonee, and the Bhundara districts. It is about equi-distant from the head-quarters of each of these districts; and it had never been properly looked after. Its revenues had not been duly developed; nor had any continued, successful effort yet been made to bring its lands under cultivation. Not that the tract had been entirely neglected; on the contrary, our Mahratta predecessors had made more than one endeavour to plant settlers in these uplands. More recently, measures were taken under the direction of the Settlement department to get the country colonized, and to realize a revenue from its wastes. But no sufficient result had followed; partly perhaps from the insalubrity of the climate at certain seasons, and partly from the difficulty of supervision. Last year, however, Mr. Temple, who knew the country well, and had more than once marched through it, obtained the sanction of the Supreme Government to establishing, experimentally, a new district under a Deputy Commissioner in this backward part of the country. Accordingly, in February 1867, a new district, called the Balaghat (above the passes) district, was constituted, comprising portions of the hill country formerly appertaining to the Mundla and Seonee jurisdictions and a piece of submontane country out of the Bhundara district. The Deputy Commissioner had hardly joined his district before the close of

the year under report. Next year's Report will properly treat of the success which may have been achieved. But it may be well to add here that already the Deputy Commissioner of Balaghat has found men of substance from below the passes who have taken 150 waste villages and have begun to bring them under cultivation.

Gadurwara and Seonee sub-divisions.

5. The other arrangements which have to be adverted to, were devised in view to the convenience of capitalists and traders at centres of population, rather than to the civilization and development of wild tracts. At Gadurwara and at Seonee, two towns in the Nerbudda valley which have sprung into importance during the last few years, traders and merchants represented the inconvenience occasioned to them by the law which compelled them to take their more important suits to the head-quarters of their districts at Nursingpore and Hoshungabad. At both these towns were railway stations on the main line of the G. I. P. Railway. The importance of both was sure to rise, rather than decrease. The one, Gadurwára, was the entrepôt where all the merchandise of Saugor and the Vindhyan country would strike the railway; it was also the junction for the branch lines to the Mopani coal-pits and the Tendookhera iron mines. The other, Seonee, was the depôt for the Kokun salt and sea-borne goods consumed by the Baitool and Puchmurree country; while it was the centre of the best corn-lands of the rich district of Hoshungabad. At both these places was a Tehseeldar, or sub-divisional officer, with petty Criminal and Civil powers. But the Tehseeldar had been always overwhelmed with work; and moreover he had no jurisdiction in the more important cases. To meet the acknowledged want, Mr. Temple, with the sanction of the Supreme Government, changed the Seonee Tehseeldarship into a sub-division, under an Extra-Assistant Commissioner with enlarged judicial powers; and at Gadurwara he stationed an Assistant Commissioner with full powers, who, together with the Tehseeldar, would be able to dispose of the heavy judicial and executive business of the sub-division.

Moorwarra sub-division.

6. It was mentioned in the Report for the year 1865-66 that the escheated principality of Bijiragogurh had been transferred to these Provinces from the Central India Agency, and had been attached to the Jubbulpore district. It was found, however, that this sub-division was too distant to be conveniently looked after from Jubbulpore, and the Supreme Government sanctioned the establishment of a sub-divisional Officer in this quarter of the Jubbulpore district. The circumstance that the East India Railway passed through the Jubbulpore district, and that its stations in the Sleemanabad sub-division were fifty miles distant from the district head-quarters, made it particularly desirable to have a European Magistrate in that direction. Accordingly, Moorwarra, a railway station, on the border between the Central Provinces and the independent state of Myhere, and within a few miles of the Bijiragogurh sub-division, was chosen as the head-quarters of an Assistant Commis-

sioner, who should have jurisdiction over the two Tehseels (sub-collectorates) of Rijiragogurh and Sleemanabad. This arrangement, besides being satisfactory to the railway people and to the district authorities, will be a convenience to the traders and dealers in the towns of that part of the country.

SECTION III.—CIVIL JUSTICE.

Judicial machinery unchanged.

7. The machinery for the administration of Civil justice remains the same as has been described in former Reports. Several Naib Tehseeldars (Deputy sub-divisional officers) in the more populous tracts have been empowered to try Civil causes of small amounts. A Registrar, with powers to try suits up to the value of 20 rupees, has been appointed to the Nagpore Small Cause Court. A native of the Mahratta country, possessing high judicial attainments, has been appointed to the post, and he relieves the Judge of a large number of petty cases.

Law and Procedure.

8. No material changes of practice or procedure have been introduced into our Courts during the year. Unremitting attention continues to be paid by the higher judicial authorities to the inspection and supervision of the lower Courts. The procedure of all the Courts is now considered to be good. The Judges, European and Native, are said to have improved in the respect where they were heretofore wanting; namely, in eliminating quickly and accurately the real issues between the parties to contested suits.

Increase in litigation.

9. In last year's Report it was stated that there had been a considerable increase in the Civil litigation; and that the number of suits instituted in the year 1865 was 20 per cent. above those of the preceding year. It was also observed that the introduction of the Limitation Act might have caused a part of that increase. But the judicial statistics of the year 1866, during which no special cause was in operation, show that litigation continues to increase, both in respect of the number of suits and of their average value. There were 45,250 suits, involving property and rights valued at Rupees 48,79,975 (£487,997), instituted during the year 1866, as compared with 39,254 suits, involving Rupees 31,44,890 (£314,489), in the year 1865. The average value of each suit in the year 1866 was Rupees 110, against Rupees 77 in the preceding year. The increase of litigation occurred mainly in the Nagpore Division, and in Nimar and Belaspore districts,—parts of the country where in previous years the people had less resorted to our Courts than in the older

districts of the Nerbudda valley. It may be well here to show the number and value of the Civil suits instituted during the last six years. They are as follows:—

	Number of original suits.	Total value, in rupees, of property or rights involved.	£
1861	19,288	11,93,332	119,333
1862	26,931	.....	.....
1863	28,655	22,71,206	227,121
1864	32,655	20,02,965	200,296
1865	39,188	31,24,495	312,449
1866	45,250	48,79,975	487,997

The large and progressive increase may perhaps be taken as some index of the advancing prosperity and wealth of the people, and of the growing popularity of the Courts.

Classification of suits.

10. The proportion of increase in the several classes of suits may be seen from the subjoined figures:—

Suits for, or connected with—	Number of cases in 1865.	1866.
Inheritance	177	172
Marriage, betrothal, &c.	294	298
Religious shrines, and customary fees	142	306
Personal service	468	539
Mortgage	134	60
Tenancy, &c., of houses	314	337
Specific performance	551	644
Torts	521	564
Partnership	205	265
Parole	6,651	7,900
Debt on account	5,380	6,244
" on bills of exchange	.....	364
" on unregistered bond	20,612	21 517
" on registered bond	332	446
Other suits not included in the above. Real property	1,403	1,566
Other suits not included in the above. Personal property	2,063	2,962

It will be observed that the increase in litigation is apparent in nearly the same proportion through almost every class of suits. The proportional increase in "debts on unregistered bond" is low, being less than 4 per cent., while 13 per cent. is the general proportion. Now that the Registration Act has come into force the proportion of suits of this class will diminish.

Special kinds of suits.

11. In about one-fifth of the whole Civil litigation, or precisely the same proportion as the preceding year, the suits were between money-lenders and agriculturists. The number of cases in which bankers or traders sued each other, fell from 4,028 in the year 1865, to 3,327 in the year 1866. The cause

for this decrease probably was the comparative quiet of the cotton market, the great fluctuations of which during the year 1865 drove traders of a certain class to the Courts.

Duration of cases.

12. Much promptitude continues to be shown by the Courts. Out of 45,594 suits for disposal during the year 1866, only 1,268 were pending at its close. The average duration of each suit was 14 days; in no district was the average duration above 25 days. Each suit came up for hearing, on an average, 2½ times, there being reckoned as a hearing, both the day on which the suit was filed, and the day on which decision was given.

Cost of suits.

13. The average cost of each suit during the year 1866 was 6½ per cent. on its value, as compared with 9 per cent. in the previous year. This proportion is considered moderate. Now that the new Stamp law has imposed a higher initial stamp on suits of large values, the percentage of costs to value may be expected to rise.

Classification of decisions.

14. The mode in which cases were disposed of may thus be shown:—

Struck off on default	15	per cent. of total cases.
Settled out of Court by compromise...	8	ditto.
Judgment confessed	34	ditto.
Decided *ex parte*	11	ditto.
Referred to arbitration (nearly) ..	1	ditto.
Decided on their merits after trial ...	23	ditto.

It is somewhat remarkable that these percentages are in each case almost identical with those for the preceding year. It may perhaps be inferred herefrom that the proportion of cases compromised and decided on confession of judgment is suitable to the present state of society in these Provinces. The Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Mr. R. E. Egerton, considers that the proportion of cases struck off on default is not, all things considered, too high.

Arbitration.

15. Some attention has been given to ascertaining why more suits are not referred to arbitration. And it appears that the people, for the most part, are well aware that they can have arbitration if they wish it. But ordinarily suitors do not desire it; often they have tried arbitration before they come into Court; moreover, they have paid the cost of a judge's decision, and they prefer to have what they have paid for, and not to be referred to another and a different tribunal. In further elucidation of this subject the following extract may be transcribed from the Judicial Commissioner's annual Report for 1866. Mr. Egerton, referring to the increase of Civil litigation in the Belaspore district, where 2,890 suits were instituted in the year 1866, against 730 in the year 1864, quotes the explanation offered by Mr. Chisholm, the able and experienced Deputy Commissioner, to the following effect:—"Such cases were formerly largely "disposed by 'Punchayets' (arbitration boards). As our Courts, however,

"are becoming more accessible to the people the influence of these "bodies is disappearing, and the authoritative decision of our own "officers is preferred."

Appellate business.

16. In the Reports for the years 1864 and 1865 a decrease in the number of appeals was chronicled. During the year 1866 the appellate business has begun to increase, being 1,207, against 994 in the preceding year. The number of appeals is still inconsiderable, when compared with the number of cases which are contested. The appeals to the lower appellate, or Deputy Commissioner's Courts, were 905; while 302 appeals were laid to the Courts of Commissioners and of the Judicial Commissioner. The appellate Courts—

upheld the order appealed against in		64	per cent. of the cases;
modified	"	8	ditto.
reversed	"	15	ditto.
remanded for re-trial	"	13	ditto.

These figures show well for the correctness of the decisions of subordinate judges. Less than five per cent. of the appeals preferred during the year were pending at its close. The average duration of appeals was sufficiently short, being 43 days in Commissioners,' and 14 days in Deputy Commissioners' Courts.

Execution of decrees.

17. Among the miscellaneous business which came before the Courts during the year 1866, were 21,050 applications for execution of decree; of these, 8,115 decrees were executed in full; 5,862 decrees were executed in part; 452 debtors were imprisoned; and 68 persons were released as insolvents. 1,458 claims to attached property were laid, of which 632 were decided in favour of, and 496 against the claimants. The Judicial Commissioner reports that "greater attention is being bestowed by the "Courts on the disposal of miscellaneous work—a branch of Civil business "which was much in need of improvement."

Small Cause Courts.

18. The increasing popularity and usefulness of the Small Cause Courts is worthy of special remark. The number of suits in these Courts during the year 1866 was *11,143, as compared with 4,782 in the preceding year. Much of this good result is owing to the efficiency of the presiding Judges.

Authorized Pleaders.

19. A considerable number of candidates have passed the prescribed examination and have received certificates as authorized pleaders. There are now altogether forty-eight of these practitioners at the various Courts of these Provinces. Few of them as yet possess much skill or legal acumen, and they do not, it is said, render much assistance to the Judge in intricate cases. But their services are a convenience to many classes of suitors; they are amenable to a certain control which prevents malpractices; and their usefulness will in course of time increase.

* 7,000 of these suits were laid in the Small Cause Courts of the cities of Nagpore and Jubbulpore.

20 This Section may be concluded by quoting the opinion of the Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Mr. R. E. Egerton, who reports that "the working of the Courts "during the year, taken as a whole, has been "marked by promptitude and efficiency."

Judicial Commissioner's general opinion.

SECTION IV.—CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

21. Observing the order adopted in previous Reports, the administration of Criminal justice will be noticed under two heads; *first*, the state of crime; *secondly*, the action of the Courts.

22. The tendency towards increase, which has now been observed for some years, in the number of reported offences, is still apparent. The total number of crimes may be thus compared for the last three years:—

Aggregate of crime in the Central Provinces.

	Cognizable.	*Non-cognizable.*	*Total.*
1864	18,900	11,754	30,654
1865	22,297	11,279	33,576
1866	23,797	11,359	35,156

The increase, as in previous years, has been almost entirely confined to minor and less heinous crimes. For instance there has been a considerable increase in the number of prosecutions for breaches of the Stamp and Customs' laws. Then again Conservancy rules and regulations for the maintenance of public health and public safety have been more strictly enforced than heretofore. The number of trials for offences relating to the use of false weights and measures has also largely increased. It would therefore seem that the general increase in reported crime is, in a great measure, due to increased activity on the part of executive Officers in bringing to justice certain classes of public offenders.

23. With regard to the worst kinds of crime, the returns for the year 1866 may be compared with the figures for previous years, thus:—

Heinous crime.

	Number of cases in the year			
	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.
Murder	116	92	95	88
Culpable homicide, not amounting to murder ...	37	20	20	28
Dacoity	73	32	25	35
Robbery	67	76	54	51
Administering drugs with attempt to cause hurt ...	5	3	10	2
Rape	42	33	25	34
TOTAL ...	340	256	229	238

The total of these heinous crimes is thus somewhat higher for the year 1866 than for the year 1865. If the cases of rape, which are

often doubtful, be omitted, the increase in the totals of heinous crimes becomes inappreciable. And, as was observed in last year's Report, the proportion of heinous crimes to the whole population, being one to every 33,659 souls, is small.

Murder.

24. Out of the 88 murders, 18 were committed for the sake of plunder. The number of murders of children for the sake of their ornaments decreased to four cases during the year 1866. In former years there had been evidences of increase in this class of crime, so that the decrease from 12 offences under this head in the year 1865 to four cases in the year under report, is cause for satisfaction.

Dacoity.

25. There has been a considerable increase in the number of dacoities. But most of these cases partook truly of the nature of theft or highway robbery, and the *real* cases of dacoity (in the aggravated sense of the term) during the year 1866 were very few. The Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Mr. R. E. Egerton, reports that "proportionally fewer persons participated "in each dacoity this year than last year, and a proportionately larger "number of persons have been convicted in each case." Still there were some cases of really bad (though not the worst) type, which clearly indicate that the embers of gang robbery are smouldering, and not yet extinguished. Looking, however, to the increased proportion of convictions in the cases which did occur; to the considerable number of cases of former years which were hunted up and came on for trial during the year; to the garnering and gathering in of old professional robbers by the special dacoity agency, till but a few more of these people remain to be gleaned,—we may hope that the Police will succeed in stamping out this crime altogether.

Witchcraft.

26. In last year's Report reference was made to the popular belief in witchcraft, which prevails in the eastern districts, and which at times results in the persecution, maltreatment, and even the murder of supposed witches. The Judicial Commissioner in his annual Report for 1866 writes that "this "belief still retains its hold on the minds of the people. It is always a "matter of great difficulty, and one requiring time to eradicate religious "superstition; but the severe punishments awarded by our Courts in all "cases in which superstitious belief has resulted in violence to individuals, "have not been without effect. Three murders of supposed witches "occurred during the year; but the number of offences committed in "consequence of this belief has greatly decreased."

Minor crimes.

27. In the number of minor offences against property there is a slight increase. But the percentage of increase is very much smaller than it was for the preceding year. Under the heads of theft and house-breaking, the returns

for the last three years have been as follows:—

	Number of reported cases.
1864	16,163
1865	17,695
1866	18,243

It has on occasions been remarked that, when an Indian Province comes under regular British rule, crimes of this sort do generally increase. Various explanations for the phenomenon have been offered; one among others being, that the increase is not real, but merely apparent, and is due to increased care in reporting crime. However this may be, the criminal returns for the year 1866 would seem to show that the increase in minor crimes against property need not be progressive. In the four districts of the Nagpore Commissionership, the most populous and important tracts in these Provinces, lesser crimes of this sort are considerably (22 per cent.) fewer for the year 1866 than they were for the year 1865. This diminution is not, however, universal; for in the less populous and wilder Commissionership of Chutteesgurh, thefts and house-breakings have increased during this year by nearly 33 per cent. Much of the improved result in the Nagpore Division is attributed, probably with justice, to the more careful enforcement of the law against bad characters, or persons who, having no respectable means of living, do in reality subsist by petty crime. The attention of Magistrates, of the Police, and of landholders, has been specially drawn to the necessity for keeping watch upon people of this kind.

Recovery of stolen property.

28. The proportion recovered out of the aggregate of stolen property was 33 per cent. in the year 1866, as compared with 31 per cent. and 33 per cent. in the two years next preceding. The declared total value of property stolen during the year was Rs. 4,43,533 (£44,353), against Rs. 4,66,132 (£46,613) last year.

29. The reported cases of cattle theft continue at about the same number as last year; viz., 1,020 cases in the year 1866, against 1,012 in the year 1865. The frequency of this crime has alternated much in the several districts; it has increased in the less populous districts, while it has diminished considerably in the better cultivated tracts.

Petty complaints.

30. The number of complaints in cases not cognizable by the Police has stood at nearly the same figure for the last three years, thus—

	Number of complaints.
1864	11,140
1865	11,448
1866	11,167

The percentage of convictions continues to be about 50 per cent. on the whole. The recent amendment of the Stamp law may perhaps cause a diminution in the number of complaints and a concomitant increase in the percentage of convictions.

Despatch of business.

31. Turning now, *secondly*, to the action of the Courts. The despatch of business in the magisterial Courts continues to be prompt; in some districts where the criminal work is heaviest, nothing is left to be desired in this respect. Out of 41,905 persons for trial during the year, there were only 209 under trial at its close. The average duration of the several classes of trials was—

In cases sent up by the Police	3	days.
In cases taken up on complaint	8	„
In cases committed to the Sessions Courts ..	48	„
In appeals to Commissioners, as Sessions Judges	17	„

32. The results of criminal trials during the year may be thus shown :—

(1). Of the total number of persons arrested or summoned in cases cognizable by the Police, 73 per cent. were convicted or committed to the Sessions in the year 1866, against a percentage of 72½ in the previous year.

(2). In cases instituted before the Magistrates on complaint, without the intervention of the Police, 63 per cent. of the persons summoned or arrested were convicted in the year 1866, as compared with 62 per cent. in the previous year.

(3). Out of 257 persons committed to the Sessions Courts for trial during the year 1866, 66 per cent. were convicted, against a percentage of 68 in the previous year.

(4). 634 appeals against the orders of Magistrates of the different grades were preferred in the year 1866, against 637 appeals in the preceding year. In 429 cases the orders of the Magistrates were upheld; in 74 they were modified; and in 114 they were reversed. 17 appeals were undecided at the close of the year.

The Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Mr. R. E. Egerton, considers these results to be, on the whole, satisfactory; and to be an improvement on what has heretofore been achieved.

Analysis of punishments.

33. The manner in which punishments were inflicted may be thus shown :—

Out of 28,708 persons convicted during the year—

151	persons	were	sentenced	to imprisonment, whipping, and fine.
1,101	„	„	„	imprisonment and whipping.
1,768	„	„	„	imprisonment and fine.
2,937	„	„	„	imprisonment only.
4,685	„	„	„	whipping only.
18,066	„	„	„	fine only.

For each person sentenced to the several kinds of punishment, the average term of imprisonment was 7 months,—very nearly the same as the foregoing year; the average amount of fine was 7½ rupees (15 shillings)

for the year 1866, against an average of 10½ rupees (£1-1-0) in the year 1865; the average number of stripes was 15, as compared with an average of 16 stripes to each person whipped in the preceding year. The total amount of fines imposed during the year 1866 amounted to Rupees 1,68,364 (£16,836), of which 75 per cent. were realized, as compared with 70 per cent. of realizations in the year 1865. Out of the fines, Rupees 16,281 (£1,628) were ordered to be paid as compensation to sufferers.

The Officiating Judicial Commissioner considers that the severity of punishments is by no means excessive. He also records it to be the almost universal opinion among Magistrates, that "whipping is "efficacious as a punishment, and that it is dreaded far more than "imprisonment by the criminal classes generally."

Procedure.

34. In respect of the procedure and the general conduct of the criminal Courts, the Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Mr. R. E. Egerton, writes:—

"The procedure of the Courts has continued to perfect itself. I am "satisfied, from personal inspection of numerous cases, that the proce-"dure of the Courts may, without exaggeration, be called good." The Officiating Judicial Commissioner goes on to say, that special attention must now be paid to instructing Magistrates in the law of evidence.

Honorary Magistrates.

35. There are now 62 Honorary Magistrates at work in the several districts of these Provinces. These gentlemen decided 4,464 cases during the year 1866, as compared with 4,114 in the preceding year. Many of these cases are taken up on complaints which injured parties lay, of their own motion, before the Honorary Magistrates' Courts. Most of these Native gentlemen are very popular as Magistrates; and they all are persons of rank and position in the country. The Judicial Commissioner reports that "they have exercised the judicial powers conferred on them in a most praiseworthy manner, and have afforded valuable aid in the criminal administration."

Section V.—Police.

36. As in previous reports, it may be well to offer a statement of the strength and cost of the Police in these Provinces as they stood during the year:—

	Men.	*Rs.*	£.
Regular Police, paid from the general revenues	7,516	12,38,918	123,832
Municipal Police, paid from local funds.	1,458	1,36,933	13,693
Total ..	8,974	13,88,060	138,805

This shows a reduction of about 80 men, and an increase in cost amounting to about Rs. 45,000 (£4,500). The continued dearness of provisions necessitated the expenditure of considerable sums in the shape of temporary extra pay and increased horse allowance. Effort was made to meet the extra charge by reducing the numbers of the Police in some districts. But it was not found possible to effect savings which should countervail the whole of the extra outlay. The price of food is now somewhat cheaper than last year. If this comparative cheapness continues, the Police expenditure may perhaps be kept under.

General results of Police work.

37. The general action of the Police on crime reported during the year 1866 was as follows:—

(1). Of the 23,888 offences reported, the Police investigated 12,522, or 52 per cent. of the whole. The remainder were petty thefts or burglaries in which the aggrieved parties did not wish for Police aid.

(2). The Police made arrests in 11,106, or 84 per cent. of the cases they investigated; and the number of persons arrested during the year was 19,196; of whom 87 per cent. were sent before the Magistrates for trial.

(3). Out of the total number of persons sent up by the Police for trial, 86 per cent. were convicted; 6 per cent. were acquitted; and 8 per cent. were released without trial.

Heinous crimes.

38. Under the more heinous heads of crime, the action of the Police during the year 1866 may be compared with the results of the previous year, thus:—

OFFENCES.	Of cases reported, apprehensions were made in		Of persons sent up to the Magistrates for trial, there were convicted or committed	
	Cases per cent.		Persons per cent.	
	1865.	1866.	1865.	1866.
Murder	92·1	96·1	98·2	96·1
Dacoity	81·2	86·5	100·	88·4
Robbery with hurt	63·6	88·8	100·	100·
Robbery	80·8	81·3	86·5	88·1

There has thus been improvement on the results of the preceding year,

39. There has been a considerable increase in dacoity over the number of cases reported in the year 1865. The reported cases of dacoity for the last five years stand thus:—

Dacoity.

In 1862	there were	50	dacoities.
„ 1863	„	56	„
„ 1864	„	31	„
„ 1865	„	20	„
„ 1866	„	31	„

This increase is certainly to be regretted; but on the other hand, there were certain countervailing circumstances about the dacoities of the year 1866. Nearly all of them were of a mild type. Though they were undoubtedly dacoities, according to the strict definition of the term, yet they were not violent gang robberies committed by professional dacoits. For instance, two of the crimes shown under this head were only cattle lifting, in which the stolen animals wandered back to their owners; one was a robbery of a melon garden: only one of the cases was attended with severely aggravating circumstances. Indeed in no one of the cases was murder committed, or was any one seriously injured. In these 31 cases 235 persons were apprehended and 157 were convicted. The special dacoity agency sent up for trial during the year 27 old offenders, out of whom nineteen were convicted and punished, most of them notoriously bad characters. On the whole, there seems to be little ground for apprehension that this particular class of violent crime,—once unhappily rife in the Nagpore country—is not being continuously kept down. It is the general belief that there are now no gangs of professional dacoits in these Provinces who live by crime.

40. In respect of the minor kinds of crime against property, there seems cause for fearing that our Police system is not sufficiently repressive. Hitherto the Police have not investigated offences of this class, unless the injured persons solicited Police aid, or unless the property stolen exceeded fifty rupees in value. The result of this procedure was, that very few petty offences of this kind were, in the rural districts at any rate, enquired into. In towns and places where there were resident Magistrates, aggrieved persons usually ask for a Police investigation into their losses. The practical consequence has been, that in towns and cities petty theft and house-breaking has very largely decreased; while in villages, and over the country generally, these offences have considerably increased. Accordingly Mr. Temple decided to make a Police investigation obligatory for all reported offences wherein the value of the stolen property may exceed twenty rupees. Hereafter the limit may still further be lowered. The Police are instructed to encourage people to court an investigation into crimes against property. And it is hoped that in the course of a few years some success may be obtained in the repression of minor offences against property.

Increase in petty theft and house-breaking.

Measures of repression.

Treatment of bad characters.

41. In view to the repression of petty crime much attention is being paid to registering and watching persons suspected of living by crime. From time to time notoriously bad, characters are brought by the Police before the Magistrates, and prosecuted according to law. A considerable proportion of the persons thus placed on their trial are acquitted. But the mere fact of such proceedings being instituted has a deterrent effect upon habitual offenders.

Landholders' police duties.

42. Landholders all over the Provinces are becoming more and more alive to their police responsibilities. Nearly all the Magistrates and Police officers acknowledge the material aid rendered by landholders in reporting crime, in tracing out and apprehending criminals, and in watching bad characters.

General conduct of the Police.

43. Regarding the general conduct of the Police and the share they have taken in the criminal administration during the year, the Officiating Judicial Commissioner, Mr. R. E. Egerton, gives satisfactory testimony. He writes "the Police have proved themselves efficient in "dealing with the various descriptions of crime. Their want of "detective ability has been in some instances commented on, but in this "particular also the general result set forth in the criminal returns "of the year shows that improvement has been made."

"The Magisterial and Police authorities now co-operate with the "greatest heartiness; and the Police force is generally well-behaved and "popular in the districts. Their knowledge of criminal procedure has "greatly increased; and the entire Force seems to be advancing in general "efficiency.

Violent deaths.

44. The Police returns give the subjoined statistics of violent or accidental deaths in the Central Provinces:—

	During the year	
	1865.	1866.
From falling into wells, tanks, or rivers	904	1,010
From wild beasts	546	699
From snake-bites	651	506
From the falling of walls or houses ..	65	75
From other causes	427	485
From suicide	341	372
TOTAL ...	2,934	3,147

The number of deaths from snake-bites has considerably decreased. This satisfactory circumstance may be, in part at least, due to the very

large destruction of these reptiles, which has ensued upon the sanction of rewards for killing the most deadly kinds of snakes. It is much to be regretted that, notwithstanding the hundreds of noxious animals destroyed yearly, there should have been an increase in the number of persons killed by wild beasts.

Destruction of noxious animals.

45. The returns showing the number of wild beasts destroyed during the last two years may be abstracted thus:—

	During the year	
	1865.	1866.
Tigers	543	543
Panthers and Leopards ..	760	982
Bears	392	512
Wolves	168	108
Hyænas	387	433
Snakes	...	6,010*

for which rewards to the amount of Rupees 49,820 (£4,982) were paid. Among the tigers killed were 13 man-eaters which used to live by destroying human life. A few packs of man-eating wolves have recently been committing ravages in tracts of country near Jubbulpore. Special rewards have been sanctioned for the destruction of these animals, and it is hoped that they will in time be killed off. Heretofore the wolves of these parts have shown no habit of carrying off children, as is the case with wolves of Northern India.

SECTION VI.—JAILS.

Jail buildings.

46. Good progress was made during the year in the completion of the four central jails sanctioned for these Provinces. The central jail at Nagpore is the most advanced, and requires only the finishing of certain supplementary buildings and curtain walls to be entirely taken over from the Public Works Department. It has however been in occupation for more than a year. The central jail at Jubbulpore is about half complete, and is being rigorously pushed on. That at Raepore had been so far completed, in respect of the more necessary buildings, as to be fit for the accommodation of about half its full complement of prisoners. The central jail at Hoshungabad, which was commenced in the season 1865, has four wards and some out-offices completed, and the remainder of the works are well in hand. The nine district jails are in a good state of repair. There were four lock-ups under construction—that at Sironcha the

* This represents the number of snakes killed during the second half of the year 1866 previously rewards were not given for their destruction.

head-quarters of the Upper Godavery district had been finished and occupied; and that at Bilaspore was in a good state of repair. A satisfactory increase in the number of prisoners employed in the construction and repair of these buildings has also been attained. Out of a daily average of 3,438 prisoners available for work, there were 1,287 prisoners engaged in building and repairing jails during the year 1866; whereas in the year previous, out of a larger number of available working prisoners there was only a daily average of 784 so employed.

Number of prisoners.

47. The number of prisoners admitted into jail during the year stood at about the same figure as in the year previous. During the last three years the admissions were, respectively, in—

1864	...	...	11,252 prisoners.
1865	...	...	9 935 „
1866	...	...	9,946 „

But the daily average number of prisoners in jail was somewhat less than in the year previous, being only 3,749 against 4,016. The proportion of prisoners admitted on reconviction was 11 per cent. of the whole. The admissions of juveniles were in excess of last year. But as the arrangements for segregating, educating, and attempting the reform of young offenders, are now complete, the incarceration of juvenile criminals is less open to objection than heretofore.

Conduct of prisoners.

48. The conduct of the prisoners in jail—judging from the number punished, namely 659, out of the 13,598 prisoners who passed through the jails during the year,—has been good; particularly when it is remembered that the task-work system is rigidly enforced and breaches of jail discipline are summarily punished. Testimony has been given to the continued good conduct of the convict guards, warders, and work overseers appointed under the "good conduct system." This system will become more generally introduced, as the completion of the central jails progresses. The number of prisoners who escaped from jail was 18, of whom nine were recaptured.

Health of prisoners.

49. The percentage of sick to the daily average number of prisoners in jail was 6·84, showing a slight improvement on the previous year, when it was 7·67. But the reduction in the prison death rate is still more gratifying. During the last three years the death rate has been:—

In 1864	..	...	7·64	per cent.
„ 1865	...	..	12·15	„
„ 1866	...	...	7·44	„

Cholera appeared in 8 of the 18 jails, and caused 21 per cent. of the total deaths. The largest number of deaths from cholera occurred in the Raepore jail. Out of an aggregate of 60 deaths in all our jails from this cause, 46 occurred at Raepore. The usual precautions of

immediate removal into camp, improvement in diet, change in the routine of labour, and the like, were promptly taken; and except in Raepore, where the epidemic was of a virulent type, these measures met with the most successful results. During the year 1866 the prison dietary was revised, and the scale of diet was raised. Jail officers were also empowered to issue extra rations of a specially nutritive kind when epidemic disease was threatening. The effect of these reforms is considered to have been good.

Sanitary state of jails.

50. The sanitary condition of the jails generally is highly reported of by the Inspector; and overcrowding has been prevented by immediate transfers of prisoners to other jails. Such transfers are mainly made to the central jails, wherein the accommodation is becoming more and more ample as they progress towards completion. The "dry earth system" of conservancy continues to maintain its character as one of the best reforms introduced into prison management.

Financial working of jails.

51. One remarkable feature of the year's jail administration, and one mainly due to the establishment of central jails—is the increase in the earnings of the prisoners employed on manufactures and extra-mural public works. In the previous year these earnings amounted to Rupees 39 per annum per prisoner employed; this year the returns give receipts—

From manufactures sold	Rs.	36,093
From building new jails	„	81,050
From employment on roads and other extra-mural labour	„	2,512
From articles made for prison use ..	„	10,727
From value of prison labour employed on menial offices in jail	„	13,256
making a total of	Rs.	1,43,638 (£14,363)

or Rupees 53 (£5-6s) per head per prisoner employed.

52. The average cost per prisoner under all headings stood as follows for the last three years:—

1864	Rs. 50-13-7	(£ 5-1-8)
1865	„ 57-14-7	(£ 5-15-10)
1866	„ 67-14-6	(£ 6-15-10)

But in the average net cost of each prisoner, that is, his cost after deducting the profits, direct and indirect, accruing from his labour, there has been improvement, as will be seen from the following comparison:—

In 1864 it was	Rs. 28¼	(£2-16-6)
1865 „ „	25	(£2-10-0)
1866 „ „	38	(£3-16-0)

Thuggee Institution at Jubbulpore.

53. The Thuggee School of Industry at Jubbulpore was in this year placed more immediately under the charge of this Administration; and from the Superintendent's and Inspectors' reports the following facts may be noted. There were 933 thugs and dacoits, men, women, and children, in the Institution during the year. The cost of supervision, of medical establishments, of subsistence, clothing, &c., for thug and dacoit approvers, amounted to Rupees 36,732. After paying for all expenses of thuggee prisoners, for wages to approvers, their sons and wives, for wages to hired workmen, and for a share of the cost of guards and establishments, the net profits of the Institution for the year 1866 were Rupees 24,996.

CHAPTER II.

REVENUE.

SECTION I.—LAND TAX.

Demand and collections of the year.

54. The demand on account of land tax for the year 1866-67 was Rs. 64,61,700 (£646,170), or Rs. 8,95,890 (£89,589) above the demand of the foregoing year. A part, namely four lakhs (£40,000), of this increase is the result of the revisions of the land revenue assessment; the remainder, or about five lakhs (£50,000), represents an item of land revenue which had for some years been allowed to stand over, but which was collected in the year 1866-67, with a view to squaring the accounts between Government and the landholding community. Out of the whole demand, Rs. 64,11,255 (£641,125) were collected; Rs. 31,934 (£3,193) were also collected on account of the outstanding balances of former years. The balances on account of land tax which remained uncollected at the close of the year 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 50,445 (£5,044); out of which Rs. 24,492 (£2,449) are realizable; the remainder being nominal items of demand, which are borne on the accounts until they are struck off under competent sanction. The *real* uncollected balance of land tax for the year 1866-67 thus amounted to about one-third per cent. on the total demand, as compared with one-half per cent. in the foregoing year.

Progress of the regular Settlement.

55. In last year's Report it was stated that the regular Settlement had been completed in five districts. By the end of the year 1866-67 the work of Settlement had come to a close in five more districts, namely Wurdah, Seonee, Jubbulpore, Bhundara and Nagpore. The Settlement of the Chindwara and Upper Godavery districts is approaching completion; when these are done, Settlement operations will be in progress only in the country of Chutteesgurh, and in the outlying and comparatively wild districts of Chanda, Nimar, and Mundla. In all the more populous and open parts of the country, Settlement work is complete; and the people have before them thirty years wherein they can make the most of the certainty of tenure and the fixity of demand which has been secured to them.

Assessment of the land tax.

56. The land tax of 10,080 villages or estates was regularly assessed during the year. The amount of the revised assessments was Rs. 7,11,136 (£71,114), of 40 per cent. above the land revenue which those estates formerly

paid. The revised assessments of the land tax for the ten districts of Nagpore, Wurdah, Bhundara, Jubbulpore, Saugor, Dumoh, Seonee, Hoshungabad, Nursingpore, and Baiteol, were formally confirmed by Mr. Temple, for thirty years, shortly before he left this Administration. Care was taken that this final ratification of their engagements was duly made known to the landholders.

Record of rights in the land.

57. The business of investigating, deciding, and recording the several kinds of rights in the land, has been pushed on vigorously, yet carefully. By close supervision and frequent revision, effort has been made to guard against error, and to correct mistakes where they may have crept in. In districts where settlements have been completed, a copy of the record of rights and of the field survey of his estate is placed in the hands of every landholder. The people for the most part now fully understand their rights, and appreciate the value of the record which has been made over to them. The decision of superior rights has now been almost completed over the whole of the Central Provinces; but in seven or eight districts the investigation into, and record of subordinate rights is, as yet, incomplete. The subjoined figures show the number of persons whose landed rights had, in their different phases, been recorded up to the end of the year 1866-67 :—

		Number of persons.
Absolute proprietors of villages or shares of villages		52,472
Superior proprietors (Talookdars) of villages or shares of villages		1,323
Sub-proprietors of ditto ditto ...		2,237
Proprietors of their holdings		25,981
Hereditary cultivators.	absolute ... ... about	135,000
	conditional, that is 12 years' tenants, under Act X. of 1859, about	73,000
Tenants at will		537,698

Proprietary right patents.

58. It was found that in many districts the landholders had not fully realized the certainty and the permanence of their property in land. Notwithstanding all that could be said, the mass of the people could not divest themselves of the idea that, as the land tax was settled for thirty years, so their rights in the land were assured for only thirty years. Both the land tax, and their rights would, they persisted in thinking, come under revision at the end of the Settlement. To remove this doubt, Mr. Temple decided that at the close of the Settlement in each district, durable patents of proprietary right should be given to each proprietor. Such a patent was to declare that proprietary right in a particular village had been conferred, subject to payment of the Government demand and to recognition of subordinate rights, on the persons mentioned in the deed. These patents have now been engrossed on parchment in the English

language; they bear the Chief Commissioner's autograph and the Settlement Officer's signature. They have been made over to landholders in those districts where settlements are concluded. The patents are much valued by the people, as earnests that their rights are indeed permanent; and they are regarded in the light of title deeds.

Other operations of the Settlement.

59. The other stages of Settlement business are receiving careful attention in the districts where the work is as yet unfinished. Investigations into revenue free holdings (maafees) are nearly completed. The field measurements will be concluded in every district of the Central Provinces, except Sumbulpore, by the end of the present year. The excess waste rules have been everywhere carried out, and the waste lands thus marked off as State property extend over an area of twenty-four thousand square miles. The revision of the tributes (tukolee) payable by the Zemindars or Chiefs of the Wyngunga, Chutteesgurh, and Mahanuddy country, will soon be complete.

Records in revenue offices.

60. Now that Settlement operations have been completed in ten districts, and the valuable maps and papers prepared by the Settlement department have finally taken their place among the district records, special attention has been paid to arranging, on the most approved system, the records of revenue offices. In many districts this re-arrangement of records has been properly completed; in some the operation is still in progress. Advantage has been taken of the occasion to eliminate, under fixed rules, from the record-rooms all old papers which no longer possess interest, and serve no useful purpose.

Annual village papers.

61. Increased attention is being paid to the punctual and correct preparation, either by the landholders or by the village accountants, of the annual village papers. For the first year after the close of Settlement operations in each district a special agency has been engaged in helping the villagers to get their first set of papers correctly drawn up. This object has now been for the most part effected, and the prescribed papers for the villages of eight districts will have been by the prescribed date in the current year duly filed. In another year or so, the preparation and transmission of these important documents will have become an ordinary and easy branch of the routine duties of the landholding community.

Suits between landlord and tenant.

62. The number of suits laid in the Revenue courts is increasing, now that the Settlement courts are closed. The total number of cases decided under the rent laws in the eleven months, which make up the year 1866-67, was 8,320, as compared with 5,056 in the foregoing year. More than one-half of these cases were suits brought by landlords to recover arrears of rent. The amount of business of this kind coming before our courts may be expected largely to increase.

63. The total rain-fall of the year 1866-67 was rather below than above the average of former years. But the rains were particularly seasonable. The clouds came; the clouds held off; and the sun shone;—just at the very seasons the farmers would have chosen. And it has thus happened that the year 1866-67, coming after four years of poor harvests, has brought more than average, though not extraordinarily abundant autumn and spring crops. The only exceptional cases in which the season was at all inclement were, when heavy rains fell in March and April and injured the grain which still lay out on the threshingfloors. But such injury was comparatively trifling, and was confined to a few localities.

The harvests of the year.

Section II.—Other Taxes.

64. The rates of duty on salt and sugar continue to be the same as has been mentioned in former Reports. The Customs' line for the collection of these duties occupies the same position as was described in last year's Report; that is to say, it stretches from Saugor, on the extreme north, along the Nerbudda frontier, to Boorhanpore in the west; then across the Sautpoora hills and along the left bank of the Wurdah river, until it turns northward at a point below Chanda, and rounding the south of Chutteesgurh, ends in the wild broken country to the north-east of Sumbulpore. The total length of this line is about 900 miles.

Salt and sugar duties.

65. Though the rates of duty, and the situation of the Customs' cordon remain unaltered, yet the circumstances of the salt trade, in Kokanee or Bombay salt at any rate, have been greatly changed by the opening of the two lines of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway into the Central Provinces during the year 1866-67. Salt used to be brought to the Customs' posts in carts, or on pack bullocks, and could wait there a few days, without much inconvenience to anybody, until the duty could be paid, and the salt passed across the line. But the case is otherwise, now that the salt is laden on the railway waggons close to the pans where it is made, and is carried in those waggons across the Customs' cordon. Arrangements have now been made for placing Customs' officers at the two railway stations where the great bulk of the salt for the Central Provinces is booked; and for collecting from the consignors the duty on all salt intended for places in the Central Provinces. This plan secures the revenue, at the same time is convenient to salt dealers, and obviates the possibility of preventive arrangements interfering with the free working of the railway traffic. The completion of the railway to Nagpore will give a large impetus to the trade in Bombay salt, and will perhaps enable it to compete with Madras salt in the Wyngunga, and in a part of the

Railway borne salt trade.

Chutteesgurh country. But during the year under report the special arrangements for collecting the duty had not been matured; and the trade in Kokanee salt lulled during the months of February and March 1867. It recovered in May directly the dealers had felt the convenience of the new system of collecting duty; and it is brisker now (June 1867) than it ever was before. The temporary stoppage of import in the two months of February and March has materially affected the salt tax receipts of the year under report.

66. The total yield of the salt and sugar taxes for the last two years may be thus compared :—

	Rs.	£
1865-66.....	18,33,308	183,330
1866-67.....	16,06,528	160,653

Receipts of the year.

The collections for the eleven months of the year under report thus fall short of the preceding year's collections by 12 per cent. The whole of the decrease occurred in the Wurdah and Hoshungabad collectorates, which depend wholly on Kokanee salt. In the other collectorates the receipts of eleven months were either equal to or above the revenue of the previous year.

During the year 1865-66 there appeared evidence that a system of smuggling was springing up in Chutteesgurh where the preventive line was extended and weak. Prompt measures were taken to strengthen the line and to increase the number of preventive posts. The results of the steps then taken appear, so far as can yet be seen, to be that the revenue continued to increase, and smuggling was repressed.

Excise on liquor.

67. In last year's Report it was mentioned that the central distillery system of raising an excise revenue on liquor was to be introduced into the Chutteesgurh division. This system, which has for some years obtained in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda divisions, differs from the old, or monopoly farm system, in that under the one, every gallon of liquor that is brewed pays duty, and so drink is not immoderately plentiful; while under the other the lessee of the monopoly makes and sells at cheap rates as much liquor as he possibly can. The evil of the monopoly farm system was considered to be, that it encouraged, and as some said, even gave birth to a general habit of excessive drinking. The improved system, whereby a full excise revenue is raised without giving any impetus to drunkenness, was introduced into the Chutteesgurh division in the beginning of the year 1866-67. During the current year it has, under the sanction of the Supreme Government, been extended to the Nagpore division; so that the excise revenue over the whole of these Provinces is now raised on the most approved system.

Total excise receipts.

68. The total excise revenue for the year 1866-67 amounted to Rs. 9,75,543 (£97,554), as compared with Rs. 9,27,996 (£92,799) in the preceding year. The receipts for the eleven months of the year under report were thus about Rs. 50,000 (£5,000), or more than 5 per cent. in excess of the

receipts for the twelve months of the foregoing year. Almost the whole of this increase accrued in the Nerbudda division, where the central distillery system is in force. In the six districts, where the monopoly farm system was in force, the excise revenue remained at the same figure as in the preceding year.

Improvements in the excise system.

69. Much attention has been paid during the year, more especially in the Nerbudda Division, to the improvement of the excise revenue, and to the adaptation of the central distillery system to the peculiar circumstances of the wilder tracts. It has been found that the liquor consumers of the open country can afford to pay even higher rates than heretofore for liquor; and accordingly the rates of still-head duty have been raised in such localities; while the licenses for retail sale in towns and populous tracts have been put up to auction and have fetched high prices. In this way the revenue has risen without any corresponding increase of drinking. In one district, that of Nimar, where the excise revenue has risen 35 per cent. during the year 1866-67, the increase has, in some tracts, been gained concurrently with an actual decrease in the amount of liquor consumed. Then again, in the hilly and thinly peopled tracts, where it would not pay to maintain a regularly constituted central distillery, there has been risk that the people might be stinted of the liquor, which at certain times of the year, and during hard labour of particular descriptions, is much needed. In localities of this kind single contract stills have been licensed; the average quantity of liquor that an ordinary still can turn out in a month is known, and the minimum fee, at which such a still is licensed, amounts to the sum which a moderate still-head duty on all the liquor distilled would yield.

Good effects of reduced consumption of liquor.

70. The moral and material benefits, which the central distillery system brings, continue to be as marked as heretofore. Not only European Officers, but also impartial Natives seem to be of opinion that drinking, as a habit, has much decreased; while the vice of drunkenness has nearly disappeared. The improved condition of the hill tribes, who formerly spent their substance in liquor, but who now hardly ever get drunk at all, is becoming more and more apparent.

Stamps.

71. The progressive increase of the stamp revenue has been referred to in former Reports. In the year 1864-65 the stamp income was 20 per cent. above that of the foregoing year; in the year 1865-66 the rate of increase was 15 per cent.; and during the current year the increase has been 10 per cent. But as the year under report comprised only eleven months, the actual income of the years 1866-67 and 1865-66 is about equal. The gross receipts of stamp revenue for the year 1866-67 were Rs. 5,73,433 (£57,343), as compared with Rs. 5,73,837 (£57,384) during the foregoing twelve months. The total number of non-official stamp-

venders in these Provinces is now 1,199, and through their agency 77 per cent of the year's stamp revenue has been realized. The provisions of the stamp law are becoming more generally understood; and at the same time breaches of the law are being more systematically punished. Prosecutions for these offences against the revenue rose from 985 in the preceding year, to 1,199 in the year under report.

Pandhari tax.

72. The receipts on account of the Pandhari tax for the year 1866-67 were Rs. 3,32,968 (£33,297), as compared with Rs. 2,26,125 (£22,612) for the preceding year. This ancient impost has now been placed upon a firm, legal basis; and the periodical revision of the assessment lists, once in every two years, has been regularly provided for. At the end of the year 1866–67 the Indian Licenses Act was passed, and the Pandhari tax was made applicable to the whole of the Central Provinces, whereas it had hitherto been assessed only in the districts which formed the old Nagpore Province. The receipts from "assessed taxes" may therefore be expected to increase considerably during the current year.

Section III.—Total Revenues.

73. The actual imperial revenues for the years 1865-66 and 1866-67 may be thus compared:—

		1865-66.	1866-67.
Land Revenue	Rs	54,53,296	64,43,189
Customs (Salt &c.)	„	18,42,939	16,06,909
Excise on Spirits	„	9,44,894	9,90,875
Income Tax	„	71,582	0
Stamps	„	5,73,837	5,73,433
Forests	„	2,02,644	3,70,820
Pandhari (and Miscellaneous)	„	2,26,125	3,32,968
Total..	Rs.	93,15,227	1,03,18,184
		(£931,522)	(£1,031,818)

74. It thus appears that the receipts for the eleven months of 1866-67 are ten lakhs of rupees (£100,000) in excess of the revenues of the preceding year. Of this increase, 5½ lakhs (£55,000), being on account of a past year's demand, must perhaps be reckoned as a wind-fall, which will not recur. But on the other hand there have been several items of decrease, which are abnormal and cannot be expected to occur again, for instance the customs revenue was 2½ lakhs (£25,000) short in 1866-67; there were Rs. 70,000 (£7,000) of income tax receipts in the

year 1865-66 and none at all in 1866-67. Then again the shortness of the year 1866-67 has had an effect in keeping down the excise, stamps, and forest receipts. So that, on the whole, if there had been no windfalls, and if the year 1866-67 had comprised twelve months, its revenues would probably have been about 101 lakhs (£1,010,000). The increase over the revenues of the preceding year would, therefore, have been at the rate of nine per cent.

CHAPTER III.

EDUCATION.

Educational machinery.

75. The machinery of the Educational department continues the same as has been described in previous Reports. The Department of Public Instruction has a staff consisting of—

1 Director,
3 Inspectors,

whose function is to control the educational funds, to inspect and supervise schools, wherever opened; to suggest and introduce improvements in the general educational system; and to manage the higher class schools and the normal schools. With the local civil authorities, aided by direction and supervision as described above, rests the business of managing all the lower class* schools, and of carrying out the system of popular education which has been introduced. Each Deputy Commissioner has a well paid Native Inspector to aid him in enforcing system in the lower class schools, and keeping both masters and scholars up to the mark.

General results of the year 1866.

76. Having thus briefly adverted to the constitution of the Department of Public Instruction, it may be well to compare the main educational statistics for the last two years, and then to notice the progress which has been effected in the several classes of schools. The figures for the year 1866-67 and the preceding year stand thus:—

	1866-67.	1865-66.
Number of schools of all classes	1,570	1,441
Number of scholars on the rolls	58,137	46,738
Average daily attendance	38,234	31,160
Expenditure from imperial revenues	Rs. 1,56,462 (£15,646)	Rs. 1,35,463 (£13,546)
Expenditure from local funds and voluntary contributions ..	Rs. 2,34,269 (£23,427)	Rs. 2,02,303 (£20,230)

It thus appears that the number of schools has increased 8 per cent., that the number of scholars has risen 19 per cent. during the year 1866-67. The cost per annum of each pupil on the rolls was Rs. 6-11-6 (thirteen shillings and five pence) in the year under report, compared with Rs. 6-15-5 (thirteen shillings and eleven pence) in the preceding

*It may be well to observe that the terms "high class" and "low class" refer to the kind of education given at the school, and not to the grade of society from which the pupils come.

year The voluntary contributions, donations paid from private sources, and the income from school fees aggregated Rs. 87,589 (£8,759), for the year under report, against Rs. 53,667 (£5,367) in the preceding year.

77. Adverting now to the several classes of Government schools:—

High class schools.

There is one high class Government school in these Provinces, namely the Saugor school which has now been flourishing for more than thirty years. In last year's Report it was mentioned that several pupils from this school had passed the matriculation, or had graduated at the Calcutta University. During the year 1866-67 the alumni of the Saugor school were less successful. The higher and English classes made less progress. The vernacular classes, however, did well; and it is hoped that, when the new head master shall arrive from England, the Saugor school will recover its position as the best and most useful place of education in these Provinces. A Sanscrit professor has been added to the tutorial staff at Saugor, so as to enable pupils to work up for the Calcutta degree examination, at which some one or another of the classical languages of India must be taken up. Although the total number of pupils on the rolls of this school has fallen from 270 in the year 1865-66 to 240 in the year under report, yet the proportion of senior to junior students has greatly increased; while the average daily attendance, 94 per cent. of the number on the rolls, is now better than it has ever been before. The cost of educating each pupil at the Saugor school during the year was Rs. 68 (£6-16) of which Rs. 60 (£6) were chargeable to the imperial revenues.

78. Under the category of middle class schools come the zillah

Middle class schools.

(district head-quarters) schools, and the town schools where Anglo-vernacular education is imparted. The number of zillah schools continues to be nine, as in former years. There were four Anglo-vernacular town schools in the year 1865-66; while at the end of the year 1866-67 there were fifteen schools of this grade, and several more have been opened since the close of the year. The total number of schools of this class is therefore 24 for the year 1866-67, as compared with 13 in the previous year. The returns for these middle class schools show 3,752 boys on the rolls in the year 1866-67, against 1,660 in the previous year; while the average daily attendance has risen from 1,362 to 2,606.

79. The sanctioned teaching staff of town schools provides for

Desire for English education.

vernacular instruction. But during the last two years an active desire for English education has shown itself; and the townspeople of 15 towns had, by the end of the year 1866-67, subscribed sums, which, with an equal amount allowable from the imperial revenues under the grant-in-aid rules, have sufficed to pay for qualified English masters at their schools. This movement has hitherto been mainly confined to the Mahratta districts. Its result has been to place a

number of town schools on a better footing than they were before; to enlist the sympathies of the people still more in favour of schools to the support of which they themselves largely contribute; and to raise the number of pupils learning English from 1,526 to 1,970 throughout the Central Provinces. In the Mahratta districts of the Nagpore country, and in the Hindi-speaking tracts of Chutteesgurh, where there never was any really learned or highly educated class of men under the Native regime, it is considered a good and a healthy sign that Engish instruction should be so much sought after. At ancient centres of Hindoo and Mahomedan learning the case may be different. But in a country where neither Sanscrit, nor Pérsian, nor Arabic were ever taught; and where there was no classical learning of any kind, it seems well that English should be the vehicle for all high education.

Lower class schools.

80. Among lower class schools are reckoned the town and village schools, where vernacular education only is imparted. The statistics of these schools for the last two years may be thus compared:—

	1865-66.	1866-67.
Number of schools	572	658
Number of boys on the rolls ...	27,478	29,658

In last year's Report it was observed that these schools were not making so much progress as had been hoped for; that the proportion of boys in the lowest or alphabet classes was too large, and that boys stayed too long in those classes; and that the average qualification of the teachers was not sufficiently high. During the year 1866-67 the educational Officers have been enabled by the help of considerable grants from municipal funds, and by the increased income from the two per cent. educational cess, to raise the salaries of town and village school masters, and to supply more assistant masters. The result of these measures is already becoming apparent in the improved condition of town and village schools, especially in the southern circle of inspection.

Normal schools.

81. There are now four normal schools, at which persons are trained up for masterships of town and village schools. There is also a small female normal school at Nagpore. There is one of these normal schools at the head quarters of each divison. The normal school at Khundwa, which was specially established to provide masters for the Nimar schools, was closed after it had turned out fifteen certificated masters. The opening of the railway between Nagpore and Nimar made it easy for the Nagpore normal school to supply masters for Nimar. In the year 1865-66 the tutorial staff of the Nagpore school was very considerably strengthened; and the good results of this measure are now becoming apparent. In previous years our normal schools had scarcely turned out any certificated town school masters; though they trained a number of masters for village schools. During the year 1866-67 four pupils of the Nagpore school obtained town school certificates, and 42 gained

village school certificates. There are now 90 pupils at this school; of whom 15 are becoming qualified to teach English. An old palace in the city of Nagpore has been made over to the school, and is being fitted up with dormitories as well as class rooms, so that all the scholars who come from outlying towns will be boarded and lodged at the school. The normal schools at Jubbulpore, Raepore, and Hoshungabad are not in quite such a flourishing state as the Nagpore institution. The improvement of these important schools is now under consideration. The total number of certificated masters turned out of our normal schools during the year 1866-67 was 103, as compared with 140 in the year previous.

Aided schools.

82. Of aided schools there are two kinds; *first*, high and middle class schools attached to the Missions at Nagpore, Kamptee, Jubbulpore and Chindwara; and *secondly*, indigenous schools, founded and maintained by natives of the country, which obtain grants-in-aid proportioned to the acquirements evinced by their scholars at periodical examinations.

Mission schools.

83. At Nagpore and at Jubbulpore, the two chief cities of these Provinces, the principal educational institutions are the Mission schools. The Free Church Mission at Nagpore has made much progress during the year. Besides the care and supervision of the Revd. Missionary, the school enjoys the services of two trained teachers from Scotland who joined the school shortly before the beginning of the year under report. During this year the English classes have been brought on very well; and there seems every probability that several scholars will be well prepared for the University examination in December next. The system of teaching, and the advance recently made both in the English and vernacular departments are highly thought of by the Government Educational Officers. This Mission has branch schools at Chindwara, at Kamptee, and at Seetabuldee. It is now opening another branch school in a populous quarter of the Nagpore city, from which scholars cannot conveniently reach the main institution. The Church Mission at Jubbulpore continues to maintain a high standard of progress at its admirable schools which were established some years ago. The Catholic school at Kamptee, to which a grant-in-aid has recently been given, is also considered to be a useful and successful institution. The total number of pupils at these higher and middle class aided schools was 1,063 for the year 1866-67, against 1,163 in the preceding year. The average cost to Government for each pupil was Rs. 10-14-0 (nearly twenty-two shillings).

Indigenous schools.

84. There were 743 schools, founded and maintained by the people of the country, in operation during the year. The total number of scholars on the rolls of these schools was 19,558 at the end of the year 1866-67. Grants-in-aid were awarded to 249 of these schools; the number of scholars at these aided

schools was 11,318; and the Government grant towards their support amounted during the year 1866-67 to Rs. 1-1-0 (two shillings and three half-pence) for each pupil.

Female schools.

85. The number of female schools continues to increase, there being now 130 schools with 3,621 girls under instruction; as compared with 90 schools and 2,361 pupils in the preceding year. Some of the female schools at towns or cities, where Native gentlemen of position and energy have become patrons, are making excellent progress. At such places the daughters of men of all castes and tribes attend; the people take great interest in the periodical examinations; and the inspecting Officers feel satisfied that the schools are really useful and meet an actual want. At such schools the girls not only learn reading, writing and cyphering; but they are also taught needle work, knitting, and other feminine accomplishments. Some of the girls' schools, however, which do not possess influential patrons, are considered by the educational Officers to be unsuccessful. Effort is being made to elevate the status of these schools, and to induce respectable men of the neighbourhood to lend their countenance.

Scholarships.

86. The Supreme Government, towards the close of the year 1866-67, sanctioned a scheme for granting scholarships to the pupils of village, town, and district schools. Such scholarships will be competed for at examinations; and boys at Mission or other aided schools can be elected thereto. Each scholarship will be tenable for two years at a Government or aided school of the next higher class. For instance a village school-boy can win a scholarship and hold it for two years, while he is prosecuting his studies at a town school. Again, he can gain a town school scholarship and keep it while he is attending a zillah (district head-quarters) school. And if he desires to enter the Educational department he can compete for a scholarship tenable during two years' attendance at a normal school. By means of the attractions thus held out, studious boys will be induced and enabled to prosecute their studies, as far as our present machinery can carry them.

School fees.

87. The total receipts from school fees during the last two years were as follows :—

		1865-66.		1866-67.
Zillah (district) schools ...	Rs.	1,871	Rs.	2,138
Town schools	"	2,767	"	5,375
Village schools	"	3,016	"	2,632
Aided schools	"	2,227	"	3,793
Total	Rs.	9,881		13,939
		(£988)		(£1,394)

At present the highest monthly fee paid by any pupil is eight annas (one shilling); and in the majority of schools no fees above one anna (three half-pence) a month are exacted. The Director of Public Instruction has now taken into consideration the propriety of raising the school fees for all boys attending English classes, and for all middle class schools.

General results.

88. Although the educational department is making progress, yet there is very much left to do. Comparing the number of scholars with the population as ascertained at the late census, there are seven children under instruction to every *mille* of the inhabitants. One district however, Sumbulpore, is far ahead of the rest of the Central Provinces in this respect. Two years ago a very remarkable desire for education arose among the Ooriya speaking people of that country. Landowners and priests, aided by the district Officers, founded schools in all directions. The Supreme Government sanctioned grants-in-aid to many of these schools, and also gave special temporary grants towards Government schools in Sumbulpore. The schools are now full to overflowing; many schools, founded in villages by the people themselves and aided by Government, already contain a hundred, or a hundred and fifty pupils each. The only difficulty is the provision of competent masters in sufficient numbers to meet the unusual demand which has suddenly sprung up. There cannot be any doubt about the reality of the movement; for the people of the Sumbulpore district subscribed, in the eleven months of 1866-67, Rs. 26,925 (£2,692) towards educational objects, of which Rs. 13,682 (£1,368) were given towards the salaries of teachers, and the remainder was expended in erecting school houses. The total number of schools established, aided or inspected by Government agency, in the single district of Sumbulpore is now 208; at the end of the year 1866-67 there were 141 such schools; the number of scholars in Sumbulpore has also increased from 6,924 to 11,343. The proportion of children under instruction in Sumbulpore is thirty to every *mille* of the population.

Results in Sumbulpore.

CHAPTER IV.

PUBLIC WORKS.

89. The Public Works Department of the Central Provinces consists of twelve divisions distributed, including the Godavery Works, among three circles of superintendence.

The executive staff of the department consists of—

15 Executive Engineers,
14 Assistant Engineers,
48 Upper Subordinates,
28 Lower Subordinates.

The budget allotment for the year under review was Rs. 32,97,780 (£329,778) divided into the main heads of—

Military Works ..	Rs.	8,32,500	(£83,250)
Civil Works ..	„	18,72,820	(£187,282)
Establishment ..	„	5,51,060	(£55,106)
Tools and plant ..	„	41,400	(£4,140)

and the net expenditure for the same period, Rs. 24,51,746 (£245,174) as follows:—

On Military Works ..	Rs.	4,53,744	(£45,374)
„ Civil Works ..	„	14,51,767	(£145,177)
„ Establishment ..	„	5,19,390	(£51,939)
„ Tools and plant ..	„	26,845	(£2,684)

SECTION I.—MILITARY BUILDINGS.

90. The heaviest expenditure under this head has occurred at the stations of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Kamptee and Nagpore.

At Jubbulpore.

91. At Jubbulpore extensive alterations to the temporary thatched barracks have been in progress and several minor military buildings completed. Efforts have also been made to improve the sanitary condition of the Cantonments by draining the low ground in the neighbourhood of the barracks. This work is still in progress, and the success which has hitherto attended the operation leads to the conclusion that the object will be fully attained.

At Saugor.

92. At Saugor, four barracks, each to contain half a company, have been in progress; but none were pushed to completion by the close of the year, owing to delay in the receipt of iron girders. Good progress was made in the auxiliary buildings for the Royal Artillery.

93. At Kamptee, little was done in actual construction, beyond finishing some minor buildings. But a project for completing accommodation for the Royal Artillery, including estimates for two double-storied barracks has been submitted. A scheme, with details, for a new Arsenal has also been elaborated and laid before the Government of India. A project for the improvement of the defences of the fort of Seetabuldee, with permanent accommodation for the European garrison has received the sanction of the Government of India, and the work is now in hand. A wing of a native Infantry Regiment has been located at Seetabuldee, and the necessary buildings are in a forward state.

At Kamptee and Nagpore.

SECTION II.—CIVIL BUILDINGS.

94. Our progress in the construction of Jails has on the whole been very satisfactory, and the four* central jails are now well advanced. Convict labor has been utilized to the utmost, and with good financial results. The construction of permanent Police buildings has been rather held in abeyance pending a revision of standard plans. The progress of the district court-houses of Chanda, Khundwa, and Raepore, has not equalled anticipation; but there have been many difficulties to contend with. A handsome Post Office near the Nagpore railway station has been commenced and will be completed by the month of August in the present year. A new Telegraph Office at Jubbulpore is also well advanced.

SECTION III.—IRRIGATION WORKS.

95. During the past year the progress that was hoped for in this very important branch, has not been realized. Of the three schemes selected, the Saonair, Kuttungee, and Bore, estimates for the former only were submitted; but the project, although very complete, and evincing considerable talent, was practically valueless from its great cost. The management of the Irrigation Division has now passed into other hands and better results are looked for.

SECTION IV.—COMMUNICATIONS.

96. The chief roads now under construction may be noticed in the same order as has been observed in previous reports. The first to be

* Nagpore, Jubbulpore, Hoshungabad and Raepore.

mentioned is the northern road, between Nagpore and the Ganges valley. On the Mirzapore and Jubbulpore road ten bridges of varying sizes have been completed, and the Kutni bridge, with five spans of 45 feet each, has been opened for traffic. By a recent order of the Supreme Government 63 miles of this road have been made over to the Government of the North Western Provinces; and the section now under the management of this Administration commences at the 198th mile from Mirzapore. Between Nagpore and Jubbulpore, the Korai ghat (ascent) is practically completed. It has been planned with judgment, executed with care, and is considered to be a credit to the Engineers engaged on it.

Kunhan Bridge.

97. The Kunhan bridge, consisting of 12 spans of 80 feet each, one of the largest and most interesting works in the Province, has made great progress. Much labour has been expended in sinking the foundations under water, and with satisfactory results. The arrangements for the continuous supply of materials are excellent and the work is unexceptionable.

Eastern and Southern roads.

98. On the Eastern and Southern roads the progress has been fair, and fully proportionate to the available funds, though not quite so great, perhaps, as the commercial importance of the works demanded. Traffic is largely increasing on these lines, and a renewal of the surface with a better material than has hitherto been employed must be looked for.

Road to Indore.

99. The Khundwa and Nerbudda road requires much repair. It was originally constructed on a light scale; and the advance of the railway has thrown upon it more traffic than it can bear. Repairs amounting to reconstruction are necessary. A part of last season was unfortunately lost before this work could be begun, and the road has suffered in consequence. Much effort is now being made to push on the repairs with vigour during this year.

Railway feeders.

100. Several railway feeders have been laid out. Of these, the Punagurh, Sehora, Sleemanabad, Moorwarra, and Jokhye feeders have progressed, and will, it is expected, be metalled during the current year. The important military roads from Saugor to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Station of Gadurwarra; and from Hoshungabad to the Etarsee railway station, have been laid out and surveyed.

Section V.—Railways.

Railways in the Central Provinces.

101. In former reports it has been described how three railway lines traverse the Central Provinces, namely, the main line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, which enters the Nimar district near Boorhanpore, and runs for 310 miles up the Nerbudda valley to Jubbulpore; *secondly*, the Nagpore extension, belonging to the same Company, which, entering the Wurdah district from Berar, after a course

of about seventy miles in the Wurdah valley, makes its terminus at Nagpore; and, *thirdly*, the Jubbulpore extension of the East Indian Railway, which, taking a southward course from Allahabad, runs for about sixty miles through the Jubbulpore district, and finally meets the main line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at the joint terminus of Jubbulpore. The progress made by each of these lines may be separately noticed in the same order in which they have been mentioned.

Line from Bombay to Jubbulpore.

102. The main line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was, at the period of last year's report, open to Boorhanpore, a town on the western frontier of these Provinces. In the autumn of 1866 it was opened to Khundwa, the head-quarters of the Nimar district. As the road from Indore; from the large Military cantonments of Mhow and Neemuch; and the principal trade routes from Malwa first touch the railway at Khundwa, the opening of this length has been of great commercial and political benefit. Beyond Khundwa, the line is almost ready as far as Seonee, an important trade mart, 90 miles eastward of Khundwa; it is nearly complete to Etarsee, 21 miles further on. The Railway Company have agreed to open to Etarsee, the station for Hoshungabad, by October 1867. Beyond Etarsee there are several heavy works which will prevent the length from Etarsee to Gadurwara, 72 miles, being quite ready until the year 1869. Beyond Gadurwara there is a length of 80 miles into Jubbulpore, which is nearly ready, and can be made quite ready by December 1867. It is in contemplation to complete the railway connection between Bombay and Calcutta during the open season of 1868, by working the length between Jubbulpore and Gadurwara from the Jubbulpore end, and by running trains over portions of the gap between Etarsee and Gadurwara, or by making temporary crossings over the most serious obstacles. In the rainy season of 1868 temporary crossings will be impracticable; but they will be renewed again in the open season of 1869. By the rainy season of 1869, at latest, the whole line will, it is hoped, be ready.

Branch line to Nagpore.

103. The Nagpore extension of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was opened to the terminus at Nagpore in February 1867. Goods and passenger trains now run daily into and out of Nagpore. The effects of the completion to Nagpore of communication with the sea-board and Western India are already apparent in the increased activity of trade.

Railway from Allahabad.

104. The East Indian Railway line from Allahabad to Jubbulpore is now complete, and the first train ran into Jubbulpore in the month of May 1867. The line will not, however, be opened for general traffic until August 1867. A fortnightly train will be run from Jubbulpore to Allahabad to carry the European mails from the month of July 1867. The expedition and punctuality with which this line has been finished reflect the greatest credit upon the Engineers and Contractors engaged thereon. The

contractors came on the ground in 1863; and they have now, in 1867, overcome every obstacle, and have completed 231 miles of line within four years of their turning the first sod.

SECTION VI.—GODAVERY NAVIGATION WORKS.

Special Committee's report.

105. Without having actually progressed, these works have made a great step. The Committee appointed by the Supreme Government to examine the project, has submitted its report; and in March 1867 definite orders were issued, pending the final decision of the Secretary of State. Operations were at once commenced on the 1st and 2nd Barriers; and the well known energy of the Superintending Engineer, Major Haig, is a guarantee for future progress.

Probable date for opening navigation.

106. The present intention is to expend during the current year about 2½ lakhs of rupees (£25,000) on the works at the 1st Barrier. If this can be satisfactorily done, the canal round the Barrier will be completed, and the navigation will be clear up to the foot of the 2nd Barrier by June 1868. The works of the 2nd Barrier will be pushed on at the same time, though they will not be completed for the next two seasons.

3rd Barrier.

107. It has not yet been decided to operate upon the 3rd Barrier, nor have detailed estimates for the works upon this part of the river been framed. When navigation up to the first Barrier shall have been opened, and work at the 2nd Barrier shall have made good progress, the scheme for the 3rd Barrier can be seriously taken in hand, and regular explorations of the Wurdah, the Pyn Gunga, and the Godavery proper, above Seroncha, can be undertaken. A full preliminary report upon the navigable reaches of the Wyngunga river was submitted by Mr. Temple, who marched down the whole length of the stream in the summer of 1866.

Flotilla on the Godavery.

108. The fleet of river steamers, which has been described in previous reports, was worked to useful effect during the year in carrying material, supplies, and work-people up and down the river. While Major Haig was on medical leave in England, he ordered, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, three steamers and six barges. Some of these vessels have already arrived in India, and the rest are expected in the course of a few months. They are built on a model designed to combine very light draught with considerable power and stowage room. They will be of great use while the works are in progress; and when the navigation is open, they will be the pioneers of commerce on the waters of the Godavery.

SECTION VII.—MISCELLANEOUS AND MUNICIPAL WORKS.

Total expenditure.

109. The works under this category consist of roads, bridges, rest-houses, serais, tanks, water-works, streets, squares, drainage and sanitary arrangements,

public buildings, and other local improvements of various kinds. The total amount expended by the several Local and Municipal Committees on works of this kind, during the year 1866-67, was about 11½ lakhs of rupees (£115,000).

Communications opened by Local Committees.

110. Now that the construction and maintenance of roads in all parts of the country is so largely defrayed from local funds, the work of the Local Committees is becoming more and more important. The undertakings on which these bodies expend their funds are necessarily much scattered. Among the most important "communications" operated upon during the year 1866-67 may be mentioned, the Chilpee ghat (pass) road up a rugged ascent which used formerly to be the chief obstacle between the northern portion of the Chutteesgurh country and the railway at Jubbulpore; sundry other passes between the Bhundara lowlands and the country above the hills were levelled and made passable for carts; a number of metalled roads to the various railway stations in the Nagpore country and the Nerbudda Valley were either begun or pushed on; a few other short lengths of metalled road were completed; annual repairs were also done to many hundred miles of unmetalled roads; ferries were maintained at suitable spots along the principal rivers; while the crossings over minor streams were sloped and made practicable for wheeled carriages.

Miscellaneous improvements.

111. Among the miscellaneous buildings and municipal improvements, which have been commenced or completed during the year 1866-67, may be mentioned the schemes for supplying water to the city of Nagpore and the town of Hingunghat; the town-hall at Jubbulpore; the clock tower at Hurdah; the market places at Toomsur, Seonee, and Baitool. Much has also been done in improving street architecture, and opening broad streets and squares in the principal towns. Nor have improvements of this kind been confined to the works executed by public bodies from municipal funds. The example set has already begun to radiate among the towns-folk themselves. There is now in these Provinces hardly a town of importance which does not contain a drinking fountain, or a well, or a school-house, or a dispensary, or a rest-house, or some other useful public building erected by private munificence. The flights of steps down to the Nerbudda river at Hoshungabad, which are now being constructed by private persons, may vie with the works of devout Hindoos on any river of India. More than a hundred Native gentlemen were present at a recent durbar, held at Jubbulpore, who had constructed in their native towns works of public utility or ornament, at a cost ranging from Rs. 500 (£50), to Rs. 20,000 (£2,000) for each undertaking. Dresses of honour (khillats) were presented by Mr. Temple in open durbar to the people who had in this way evinced distinguished liberality.

SECTION VIII.—TOTAL OF PUBLIC WORKS.

112. The following is an abstract of the expenditure on Public Works during the past two years :—

		Military Works.	Civil Works.	Roads.	Navigation Works.	Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	Tools and Plant.	Establishment.	Profit and Loss.	Advances for Stock.	Total Expenditure.	Local Works.	Grand Total Expenditure.
1865-66. From the year's Budget Grant	Rs.	4,17,378	6,93,696	8,13,972	4,74,908	14,401	40,777	6,20,264	59,515	..	31,34,911	8,24,105	39,59,016
	£.	41,736	69,370	81,397	47,491	1,440	4,078	62,026	5,951	..	313,491	82,410	395,901
1866-67. From the year's Budget Grant	Rs.	4,53,744	6,56,236	4,94,536	2,82,847	18,148	26,845	5,19,390	6,991	87,469	25 46,206	7,30,214	32,76,420
	£.	45,374	65,624	49,453	28,285	1,815	2,684	51,939	700	8,747	254,621	73,021	327,642

CHAPTER V.

POST OFFICE.

Provincial head of Postal department.

113. In last year's report it was mentioned that the Postal department in these Provinces had been placed under the charge of a Chief Inspector, and that more efficient administration might be looked for. The expectation then expressed has been fulfilled, and much has been done, during the year 1866-67, to improve, and extend the imperial Postal department; to develope the rural post; and to expedite the transmission of the mails.

114. The extent of the mail lines in these Provinces at the close of the year 1866-67, was as follows:—

Mails carried by railway	.. ..	158 miles,
" either in mail carts or on saddle horses	..	406 "
" runners on imperial postal lines	...	2,230 "
" " on rural postal lines	..	3,200 "

Extent of postal lines.

115. The 406 miles of horsed postal line is, at present perhaps, the most important link in Indian postal communication, inasmuch as it is the only length on which mails between Europe and Calcutta are not carried by steam power. The average speed attained on this road by the public mails has been 8½ miles an hour during the year 1866-67. The general average speed attained by runners on Imperial postal lines has been from 3½ to 4 miles an hour. The speed attained on the rural post lines is, as yet, unequal and insufficient. But arrangements are being made for bringing these lines into an efficient state.

Number of Post Offices.

116. At the close of last year there were 30 imperial post offices in these Provinces. There are now 45 permanent imperial offices, besides 20 experimental offices in rural towns, where School-masters have, for a small remuneration, undertaken the duties of Post-master. There are about 108 rural post offices, superintended by the Police department.

Correspondence.

117. The total number of letters, newspapers and parcels received for delivery and despatch at the imperial post offices of the Central Provinces, exclusive of through mails, was, for the year 1866-67,—

Received for delivery	.. ..	1,668,640
Received for despatch	.. ..	1,794,236

The number of letters passing through the rural post offices was 506,503 for the year 1866-67, as compared with 632,803 in the foregoing year. Of these last, the majority were service letters; only 189,752 were private letters. The proportion borne by undelivered letters to the total number of private covers carried by the rural post is still considerable, though it is smaller than in the preceding year.

Expenditure.

118. The expenditure on the Postal department in the Central Provinces is returned thus:—

Imperial postal lines	.. .. ..	Rs.	3,42,500
Rural (or local) lines	.. .. ..	„	34,891
	Total ..	„	3,77,391

The charges are swelled by the cost of carrying heavy mails between Europe and Northern India, while the receipts on account of these mails are credited in other Provinces.

Mails conveyed by Railway.

119. The further extension of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway line between Bhosawul and Jubbulpore; and the opening of the railway between Allahabad and Jubbulpore will materially improve the efficiency, and lessen the cost of the postal service in these Provinces. The full benefit of the improved communications will not, however, be reaped by the Postal department, until sorting carriages shall be introduced on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway,

New Post Office Act.

120. The new Post Office Act (XIV. of 1866) came into force at the beginning of the year 1866-67. Its provisions have been on several occasions usefully enforced against persons obstructing the mails, and against officials of the Postal department. The modified rules for franking letters on "Her Majesty's service," have been in force since August last.

Epizootic among Mail horses.

121. During the summer and autumn of 1866 an extraordinary and incurable disease attacked the mail horses on the road between Jubbulpore and Nagpore. During a few months 512 horses died. As the whole establishment of horses on that line consisted in 1866 of only 280 horses, it follows that at several stages two or more sets of horses must have died. A special enquiry, with the aid of a competent Veterinary Surgeon, was made. It appeared that the disease was of a new form; and that it was most virulent at the stages near to certain small streams. It was also manifest that the Local Officers had done their best to combat the disease; and that notwithstanding the death of so many horses, the mails were kept running. Arrangements have been made for removing the stages from places which seem most liable to infection; and for supplying good drinking water at all stables. The disease has, happily, not reappeared during the summer of 1867.

CHAPTER VI.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

122. A Telegraph office was finally opened at Hingunghat in the Wurdah district early in the year, much to the convenience of the Cotton trade. Within a few days of the opening of this branch line, a cotton telegram from Hingunghat was despatched to Liverpool and reached its destination in thirty eight hours. An entirely new line has been constructed with Hamilton's standards and insulators along the road between Nagpore and Chanda with a branch to Hingunghat. The line between Jubbulpore and Seonee has been similarly reconstructed, and that between Seonee and Nagpore was thoroughly repaired. Between Jubbulpore and Mirzapore the line will be taken down after the rains and a new double line on standards will be erected along the railway to Allahabad; meanwhile the old line has been repaired. From Chanda to Seroncha the standards are on the ground and will be set up before the rainy season of 1868, the old line meanwhile being kept in repair. From Seroncha to Doomagoodium, the head-quarters of the Navigation Works on the Godavery, the line is in good order; while from Seroncha to Wurrungul and Hyderabad (Deccan) the old line is under repair, and will be reconstructed with Hamilton's standards during the open season of 1868. Generally the Telegraph service has been gaining in efficiency and is well supervised in these Provinces.

CHAPTER VII.

FINANCIAL.

Statement of revenue and expenditure.

123. A Financial statement prepared by the Deputy Accountant General will be found appended to this report. It shows under the several heads the totals of receipt and expenditure. In comparing the figures now presented with those appended to last year's report, it must be borne in mind that the year 1866-67 comprised only eleven months. In respect of land tax, and Pandhari (house tax), the demand for eleven months was equal to a full year's revenue; but in respect of the remaining items of revenue, such as Customs, Stamps, Excise, Forests, Miscellaneous, the receipts fell short by one-twelfth of the sum which would have been realized in a full year of twelve months.

Comparison of receipts for the last two years.

124. From a perusal of the statement it will be seen that the receipts under the several heads of "Imperial Revenue" amount to Rs. 1,04,43,156 (£1,044,315). In the foregoing year the amount stood at Rs. 99,00,655 (£990,065). The receipts of the year 1866-67 thus exceed those of 1865-66, by Rs. 5,42,501 (£54,250). The percentage of increase, namely, six per cent, is thus exactly the same as last year. It should be noted here that, under the head of land revenue there was, so to speak, a windfall of five lakhs (£50,000), which will not recur in future years. But then, on the other hand, all the main heads of revenue excepting land tax show the receipts for eleven months instead of twelve. The several heads of revenue, having been fully noticed in the foregoing Chapter II, require no further remark here.

Local Fund receipts.

125. The Local Funds' income, being the receipts for eleven months only, falls short of the revenue for the preceding year. The total receipts for the year 1866-67 amount to Rs. 16,75,664 (£167,566), as compared with Rs. 17,07,613 (£170,761) in the year 1865-66. The decrease, however, instead of being one-twelfth, or eight per cent, is only Rs. 32,045 (£3,204), or about one and half per cent. If the year 1866-67 had been a full year of twelve months, its Local Fund receipts would show considerable increase over the income of the preceding year.

Total Public Income.

126. Taking the Revenue and Local Fund receipts together, the total public income for the year 1866-67 was Rs. 1,21,54,864 (£1,215,486). But the sum of Rs. 1,23,722 (£12,372) as explained in a note to the appended state-

ment, is shown both under Revenue and under Local Fund receipts. A deduction on this account having been made, the net public income of the year 1866-67 is Rs. 1,20,31,142 (£1,203,114), as compared with Rs. 1,15,12,916 (£1,151,291) in the preceding year. The ratio of increase over last year's income is thus about 4 per cent.

Forest Revenue is not fully shown.

127. It may be remarked here, that the circumstance of the Government Public Works department having taken the bulk (Rs. 1,39,000 worth) of the timber brought out of the Government Forests during the year, has resulted in this sum (nearly a lakh and a half of rupees) being omitted from the financial receipts of the year. The rules of the Account department prohibit inter-departmental cash payments. And therefore this sum, though it may perhaps be fairly considered an item of forest revenue, is not shown on the revenue side of the accounts.

Expenditure of the year 1866-67.

128. The total expenditure for the year 1866-67 (inclusive of all Civil and Political charges, but exclusive of charges for the Army and Public Works,) amounted to Rs. 58,30,233 (£583,023), as compared with Rs. 64,93,017 (£649,301) in the foregoing year. This decrease of expenditure, to the amount of 6½ lakhs (£62,500), is in part due to the shortness of the financial year 1866-67. But the decrease is not wholly due to this cause; for the expenditure under the headings of "land revenue", "allowances and refunds", "political pensions and allowances," has largely decreased. On the other hand, the working charges of revenue departments, such as the "Customs" and the "Forests" have increased. The expenditure also on "Education," "Medical department," that is dispensaries and the like, has also increased. Still there has, on the whole, been net reduction of charges to the amount of more than a lakh of rupees (£10,000) a year. And this result has been effected in a year, during which arrangements for putting all the grades of the public service on a better footing have been carried out; and during a year when the charges for compensation on account of dearness of provisions have been greater than they ever were before. It is to be borne in mind, however, that the disbursements of the year 1865-66, with which the accounts now under consideration are being compared, included certain charges of an extraordinary character, which have not recurred in the year 1866-67.

General review official salaries.

129. It may be well to describe particularly in this place the several measures, which have been taken during the year 1866-67, for raising the salaries and improving the status of the various grades of the public service. The main ground on which these increases of salary were sanctioned, was that the cost of living and the price of necessaries had risen, throughout the Central Provinces, nearly cent per cent since the time when the salaries of public servants were last fixed.

Detailed account of the revision under its several heads.

130. The changes which have been made, or are under consideration, may be grouped under the five heads of—

(1). Salaries of Officers, such as Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners.

(2). Salaries of vernacular clerks in the Judicial and Revenue departments, at the head-quarters of divisions and districts.

(3). Wages of Police Constables, of Customs' (preventive) employés, of prison guards, of messengers, and the lower grades of office servants.

(4). Salaries of Tehseeldars (sub-divisional officers), and their clerks in the Revenue and Judicial departments.

(5). Salaries of English clerks in certain offices.

Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners.

First, with reference to the salaries of Deputy Commissioners. The scale of pay for these Officers in the Central Provinces had been fixed in the year 1861, on the same scale as existed in the similarly constituted Provinces of Oudh and the Punjab. But in the year 1865-66, the rates of salary for Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners in these Provinces were raised on general considerations. When the pay of Deputy Commissioners and Assistants in the Punjab and Oudh were raised, it became clear that this Administration could not command or retain the services of good Civil Officers, unless it could pay them at a rate more nearly approaching to that which obtained in other Provinces. On the other hand it was also obvious that the revenue and the importance of some of the districts in the Central Provinces were below the average of districts in the other Provinces above mentioned. Accordingly, a modified scale of salaries was sanctioned for the Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners in these Provinces, assigning to the more important Deputy Commissionerships the improved rate of pay obtaining in the Punjab, while it retained a lower scale of salary for the smaller districts. The total extra charge which resulted to the State from these changes amounted to Rs. 59,200 (£5,920) a year.

Vernacular clerks in Deputy Commissioner's Offices.

Secondly, with reference to the salaries of vernacular clerks in Judicial and Revenue offices. The existing scale of salaries had been cast five years ago, during the first year of the Central Provinces' Administration. Since that time the amount of judicial and other business to be done had more than doubled; increased exactness and accuracy were required of all public servants. And, while a higher standard of qualifications was insisted on, the purchasing power of salaries allowed had fallen cent per cent. The price of corn was ruling at considerably more than double the average price of the decade from 1852 to 1862; wages of other kinds had risen, so much so that

16 rupees the average monthly salary of the lowest class of vernacular clerks, barely equalled the monthly earnings of an average mason, bricklayer or carpenter. It was apprehended that these clerks, through whose hands much important business of various kinds passed, would resort to corrupt practices, and might make illicit gains; and that the subordinates of our Judicial courts and Revenue offices would become demoralized. Accordingly, the salaries of this important class of public servants were revised, in conformity with a general scheme drawn up by Mr. John Strachey, the present Chief Commissioner of Oudh. The result of this revision was a general enhancement of salaries, and the reduction of a considerable number of subordinate offices. The average salary of the lowest class of vernacular clerks (mohurrirs) is now 27 rupees a month. The total extra cost consequent on this revision is Rs. 37,680 (£3,768) a year. As a set off against this increased expenditure, there will be an annual credit of about Rs. 30,000 (£3,000) under the head of savings from the process server's (tulubana) fund.

Compensatory allowances to Constables and others.

Thirdly, in regard to the wages of Constables, of Jail guards, of the lower grades of the Customs (preventive) service. There was no doubt, but that public servants of these grades had, during the last two years of high prices, been much pinched. There had been some complaint among them; and there was ground for apprehending that this class of employés might become demoralized, unless some special steps were taken to place them and their families above actual want. At the same time the finances would not admit of any general raising of the wages of this class of Government servants; for any increase of the kind would from its nature be permanent, while the dearness of provisions might hereafter be mitigated. Accordingly, it was decided to apply to these grades, rules somewhat similar to the regulations of the Military department, whereby a soldier's pay is raised when the price of corn is above a certain moderate rate. The concession of this boon gave great relief to all the employés it affected. And during the summer and autumn of the year 1866, prices ranged so high that compensation became everywhere payable. Since December 1866, however, there has thanks to an abundant harvest, been a general fall of prices. And extra wages on account of dearness of provisions have been payable only in two or three exceptionally dear districts. If prices were to continue at the level of the autumn of 1866, the extra expenditure in these Provinces on account of compensatory allowances would amount to about Rs. 1,25,000 (£12,500) a year. As circumstances now stand, the extra charge on this account will not, it is hoped, exceed Rs. 20,000 (£2,000).

Salaries of sub-divisional Establishments.

Fourthly, with regard to the salaries of Tehseeldars (Native sub-divisional officers), and their vernacular clerks. A Tehseeldar, in Provinces like these, is the sub-collector of his sub-division; he is also the Civil Judge of the Court of the first instance; and he is the local Magistrate within his jurisdiction. He is also the Vice-president of

Municipal Committees; and the director and supervisor of all executive and administrative matters within his sub-division. The necessity for raising the pay and improving the status of these subordinate Civil Judges has for some time been admitted. Very recently, the Stamp Laws have been modified; and the scale of stamp fees in judicial matters has been raised, in order that an enhanced stamp revenue might cover the cost of a scheme for bettering the position of subordinate Judges. A proposition is now before the Supreme Government for giving effect to these views by raising the salaries of Tehseeldars (sub-divisional officers), and recasting the staff of vernacular clerks on the principle of Mr. Strachey's scheme, adverted to in paragraph 126 of this Chapter. If Mr. Temple's recommendations on this head are approved, the extra charge involved will be Rs. 55,992 (£5,599) per annum. As a set off against this expenditure, must be reckoned the anticipated increase of the Stamp revenue under the new Law.

Temporary increase of pay to English clerks.

Fifthly, it was found that the dearness of living pressed very hardly upon the lower grades of English clerks, many of whom are Europeans and Eurasians. Persons of this class cannot, from their way of living, subsist on the salaries, which are a competence for Natives of India of a corresponding grade. The Supreme Government accordingly, on Mr. Temple's recommendation, sanctioned, temporarily, compensatory allowances to certain classes of English clerks, whose salaries do not exceed Rs. 100 (£10) per mensem. The total cost of these temporary increases of salary amounts to about Rs. 8,481 (£ 848) per annum.

Local Fund expenditure.

131. The expenditure under the several headings of the "Local Funds" has been fully in proportion to the receipts. The total disbursements from local funds for the year 1866-67, amounted to Rs. 17,03,045 (£170,304), as compared with an expenditure of Rs. 15,17,826 (£151,782) in the foregoing year.

Audit and Account.

132. The post audit system continues to work smoothly and efficiently. The new system of accounts was introduced successfully during the year. It appears to fulfil the intentions of its framers; inasmuch as all transactions are audited, posted up, and finally brought to account within eight weeks of the date of their occurrence.

Bank of Bengal.

133. The branches of the Bank of Bengal at Nagpore and Jubbulpore continue to transact with efficiency the business of the two chief treasuries in these Provinces. The branch of the Bank of Bombay, which for some time carried on business at Nagpore, has been closed. A sub-branch of the Bank of Bengal was opened at the Cotton mart of Hinguughat during the cotton season, and was of much convenience to the trade.

134. A considerable amount of Currency notes, Rs. 50,09,640 (£500,964) worth, have been issued to traders from the Nagpore Currency Office during the year 1866-67. But the proportion of this large issue which takes the place of money, and passes from hand to hand, is very small. The notes are mainly used as a means of remitting money from one part of the Central Provinces to another, or from local marts to Calcutta. The mode in which traders make use of the Currency notes, seems to be as follows; they send the notes to Calcutta to their Agents who realize at the head Currency Office. The usance for bills on Calcutta, according to local custom, is sixty-one days; while Currency notes can go by post in six days. Thus a man can sell a hoondee on Calcutta, and trade on the money so realized for 50 days; at the end of that time, he can buy Currency notes and send them to Calcutta to meet the hoondee on maturity. Such hoondies are usually drawn, not directly on Calcutta, but through other markets according as the price of money may be ruling. Thus a man, who is sending 50,000 rupees of Currency notes to Calcutta, will draw against them through Hyderabad and Madras, or through Saugor and Mirzapore, or through Raepore and Cuttack. Out of the total number of Currency notes issued during the year 1866-67, Rs. 48,31,640 (£483,164) worth were presented for encashment at the Calcutta Currency office. During the year under report 12½ lakhs (£125,000) of Nagpore notes were cancelled at Calcutta, and a corresponding amount of the silver reserve in the Currency vaults at Nagpore was remitted to Bombay, under the orders of the Supreme Government. The amount of silver in the Currency vaults at the close of the year 1866-67 was Rs. 43,48,469 (£434,846); and the amount of the Nagpore silver reserve invested in Government securities was Rs. 5,47,900 (£54,790.)

Currency Note circulation.

135. The money order system, which has worked well for some years in Bengal, was extended to these Provinces at the close of the year 1866-67. There are now money order Agents at every district head-quarters; and the system will prove of much convenience in petty transactions.

Money Order system.

136. The garrison of these Provinces continues the same as in previous years. Its cost is shown to have been Rs. 48,25,281 (£482,528); or equal to eleven months' expenditure at the same rate as the preceding year.

Cost of Military Forces in the Central Provinces.

137. The expenditure of the Public Works Department, inclusive of the cost of the Godavery navigation works, amounted to Rs. 24,51,746 (£245,175), for the year 1866-67, or Rs. 6,27,010 (£62,701), below the outlay of the preceding year. This does not include expenditure from local and municipal funds.

Public Works' expenditure.

Aggregate expenditure of all kinds.

138. The total Imperial expenditure within the Central Provinces for the year 1866-67, may be stated in round numbers, as follows. —

On account of all Civil charges	58	lakhs of rupees	(£580,000)
On account of the Army ..	48	„	(£480,000)
On account of the Public Works Department	25	„	(£250,000)
Total ...	131	„	(£1,310,000)

CHAPTER VIII.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

Chaplains.

139. The number and the distribution of Chaplains serving in these Provinces remain the same as in former years; namely, one Chaplain at each of the four stations of Nagpore, Kamptee, Jubbulpore, and Saugor. Negotiations are in progress with the Additional Clergy Society for providing Clergymen at one or more of the out-stations where churches have been built.

The building of Churches.

140. In last year's report it was stated that Churches had been built at Bhundara and Raepore. During the year 1866-67 the Churches at Chindwara, and at Khundwa, in Nimar, have been completed. The Church at Hoshungabad has been pushed on towards completion. Sufficient funds have been collected for erecting a new Church at Chanda, and for transforming an existing building at Nursingpore into a place of worship. There is now a Church either completed, or under construction at eight out of the fourteen out-stations in these Provinces.

CHAPTER IX.

POLITICAL.

Feudatory Chiefs.

141. The number of feudatory chiefs in these Provinces is 15, as was stated in last year's report. These personages, who wield quasi-sovereign power in their own territories, have on the whole, managed their countries well during the year 1866-67. Regarding the conduct of only one feudatory chief were complaints made. And even in those cases the chieftain appeared, after full enquiry had been made, to be very little in fault.

Rajah of Mukrai.

142. The late Rajah of Makrai, the only feudatory chief of the Nerbudda country, died in December 1866. He left no male issue; but he had, shortly before his death, availed himself of the permission granted to him by the Viceroy, to adopt an heir according to the custom of his race. A report upon the succession to the Mukrai Chiefship has been submitted; and the adopted heir will succeed. He is a well disposed youth, of about sixteen years of age.

Jug Sahai of Phooljhur.

143. Jug Sahai Rajah of Phooljhur also died during the year 1866-67. This chieftain, though he is not a Feudatory, is yet one of the most important non-feudatory chiefs of the Mahanuddy valley. He belongs to the Gond race. It has not yet been decided who is the rightful successor to the estate.

Boundary dispute in Kharonde.

144. An Officer deputed from the Madras side met the Deputy Commissioner of Sumbulpore in February 1867, and after full investigation, came to a joint decision regarding a long pending boundary dispute between two chiefs on the south-eastern frontier of these Provinces. The award, which has received the approval of the Madras Government and has been ratified by the Supreme Government, assigns the disputed tract to the Rajah of Kharonde, a Feudatory under this Administration.

Boundary disputes among Gurjhat States.

145. It having been pointed out that many boundary disputes were pending between the Gurjhat States, and other chiefships of the Chutteesgurh country; and it being apprehended that these disputes, if left undecided, would engender ill-feeling, and might occasion disturbance; an Officer of special experience in that part of the country was deputed, with

the sanction of the Supreme Government, to investigate these boundary quarrels. Captain Cumberlege, who was selected for the work, entered on his special duty in January 1867, and by the end of April he had decided 34 out of the 91 disputes which he found pending. He visited, or had interviews with most of the Gurjhat chiefs; and has gained much valuable information about the resources of those comparatively unexplored tracts.

General revision of tributes.

146. Under the orders of the Supreme Government the tributes, or "tukolee" as it is called in these parts, payable by each feudatory chief is to be periodically revised or reassessed. No such revision has taken place for many years past. The data for the revision are, however, now almost collected; some of the tributes have been revised; and the remainder will shortly come under review. The information obtained by Captain Cumberlege, during his deputation on special duty, will be of much use in determining what tributes shall be assessed upon the Gurjhat States.

Punnah boundary.

147. An Officer serving under the Central India Agency, met the Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore upon the north-western frontier of these Provinces to lay down the boundary line between the district of Jubbulpore and the Bundeelah State of Punnah. A joint report upon the matter was submitted. But as the Punnah chief, after the preparation of the report, adduced certain further agreements, which his agent had not brought forward at the local investigation, it has been deemed advisable to have another enquiry on the spot, in order that all the points in dispute may be finally set at rest.

CHAPTER X.

MILITARY.

148. The strength and distribution of the Military Forces in these Provinces, remain the same as in previous years. The total garrison consists of,—

6 Batteries of European Artillery.
3 Regiments of European Infantry.
1 Company of Native Sappers and Miners.
2 Regiments of Native Cavalry.
7 Regiments of Native Infantry; or about 9,500 men of all ranks.

The Company of Sappers and Miners, which for some years has been quartered at Mohtoor, has now been transferred to Seroncha on the Godavery. One important change, which has taken effect during the year 1866-67, has been the substitution of Native Regiments of the Bengal Army for Regiments of the Madras Army at the Stations of Jubbulpore and Saugor.

Strength of the several garrisons.

149. The strength of the troops which are to garrison the several Cantonments, was decided upon in the year 1865-66, and an account of the distribution then determined upon was given in last year's report. The orders therein referred to continue to be strictly observed.

Health of the Troops.

150. The health of the troops has been good at all stations, except Jubbulpore. Cholera did not appear at any Cantonment in an epidemic form. Her Majesty's 23rd Fusiliers, who marched from Agra to Jubbulpore in the cold season of 1865-66, were attacked during the rainy season of 1866, by fevers of a peculiarly violent type. Many deaths occurred, and the average number of sick in hospital continued to be high until the end of December. During the spring of 1867 the regiment has recovered its health. So far as an opinion can be formed, it would seem that the transfer from the dry climate of Agra to the comparatively humid atmosphere of Jubbulpore, pre-disposed the Fusiliers to fever. The year 1866 was a particularly unhealthy time at Jubbulpore among all classes of the population; and the general insalubrity of the season told with particular severity on the soldiers of the 23rd Regiment. The nature of the accommodation, and the situation of the

barracks may have had its effect in making the men unhealthy. Strenuous effort has been made during the working season of 1866-67 to remedy these defects.

Cantonment Rules.

151. Revised Cantonment rules, drawn up under Section 19 of Act XXII. of 1864 (the Cantonment Act), have been sanctioned and introduced into the Military stations of Kamptee, Jubbulpore, and Saugor. Cantonment Committees have been formed, with sufficient funds at their disposal to carry out all measures of sanitary improvement. Lock hospitals have been open during the whole year, at the three Cantonments abovementioned, which are garrisoned by European troops. The strict observance of the Lock-hospital rules has already had a good effect upon the health of the troops.

Volunteers.

152. The Nagpore Volunteers continue to be about 80 strong. At their last inspection by the General Commanding the Nagpore Force, the Volunteers acquitted themselves with much credit. The departure of Mr. Temple, who was Colonel and chief supporter of the Corps, has been a great loss to the Nagpore Volunteers.

CHAPTER XI.

FORESTS.

System of Forest management.

153. In previous reports it has been explained that the Government forests of these Provinces, extending over an area of about 23,000 square miles, are for administrative purposes classed as "reserved" and "unreserved" forests. The reserved forests are managed by trained forest Officers; their limits are permanently demarcated; and within those boundaries all the rules of forest conservancy are enforced, no trees are felled save under the special direction of skilled foresters, and plantations of young timber trees are being reared up. The unreserved forests, which cover about 21,000 square miles of waste land, are managed by the local civil authorities. In these tracts the right to collect miscellaneous forest produce, such as gums, fire-wood, lac, wild silk cocoons, bamboos, grass, and the like, is annually leased out. Permits are also granted to persons who may desire to cut timber from the unreserved forests.

Reserved Forests.

154. The selection and demarcation of "reserves," which business had been begun in previous years has now been brought almost to a conclusion. In the more important forest tracts the reserves are in full working order; their conservancy is satisfactorily effected, the people of the country understand the rule and make no attempt to trespass into, or in any way to injure the "reserves." It has not yet been found possible to exclude from these forests the summer fires, which annually devastate the jungles in the months of May and June, when the face of nature is parched from prolonged dryness. But still something has been done in the older reserves, and various measures are being tried to mitigate the force of the fires. With the exception of a few hundred saul (*shorea robusta*) trees, which were felled in the Toplah forests of the Balaghat district, and carted into Jubbulpore for the railway and public works, no felling operations on a large scale were conducted by the Forest department during the year 1866-67. By taking out teak stumps; by dragging ownerless logs, cut down in former years, out of the forests; and by felling scattered trees which were past their prime, the forest Officers managed to collect, and sell, or stock at convenient depôts, more than a lakh and a half of rupees' (£15,000) worth of good timber, and this result was gained by utilizing trees and logs which, under the arrangements of ordinary timber dealers, would never have come to market at all. The growing trees have thus been everywhere spared; and the requirements of future years have been kept in view.

155. Although the Government forests had for the most part been fully explored and reported upon in former years, there were still some comparatively little known jungle tracts in the Chutteesgurh, or eastern division; and there were large forests belonging to private proprietors (zemindars), which had still to be explored. During the year under report the eastern forests have been visited by forest Officers; much valuable jungle land, yielding bamboos and fire-wood to the open Chutteesgurh country, has been brought under regular management; and the saul (*shorea robusta*) forests near the sources of the Mahanuddy have been reported upon. The timber of this last mentioned tract is too far from roads and markets to repay any attempts to work it, for the present at any rate. In future years as the country opens out, these forests may become a valuable source of timber supply. The most noteworthy explorations of the year were made by the Conservator, Major Pearson, into the forests of the estates (zemindarees) on the Wyngunga river in the Chanda district. In these forests, one of them situated on the hills above the Godavery river, there still exist many thousands, perhaps even hundreds of thousands of noble teak (*tectona grandis*), and sheshum (*dalbergia latifolia*) trees. Arrangements are being made for the Government Forest department to work these forests under special agreement. The conditions stipulated upon will secure to the proprietors (zemindars) a considerable revenue; and will at the same time enable our officials to work the forest under the most approved rules, and to send a regular supply of first-rate timber to the markets of the Nagpore country and of the Godavery valley.

Explorations.

156. The system under which the unreserved forests are worked, has now become consolidated in all districts, except those of the Chutteesgurh division, where the Settlement department has barely completed the operation of demarcating the boundaries between Government wastes and private estates. The right of collecting forest produce (usufruct leases as they are called), over plots of waste averaging about 4,000 or 5,000 acres, is let out annually. The leases are usually taken by the leading residents of the nearest tract which has no supply of fire-wood, forage or petty timber. In this way the Government revenue from wastes and jungles is realized with a minimum of inconvenience to the people of the surrounding country. There is a remarkable concurrence of testimony among all district officials, to the effect that the people have everywhere become accustomed to, and have almost everywhere become satisfied with the forest laws. The new forest system has done indirect good, in that it makes landholders utilize more fully their own lands. It contributes also to wean the forest tribes from migratory habits, and from desultory labour; and these comparatively uncivilized races are beginning to acquire habits of steady industry. Prosecutions for breach of the forest rules are exceedingly rare. And on the other hand complaints regarding their stringency are now very seldom heard. During the

Unreserved Forests.

year under report a complaint was made that the payment of grazing fees pressed hardly on Brinjarras (pack-bullock owners), a most useful class of men, who do nearly the whole of the grain and salt carrying trade in the wilder tracts. In that case, after due enquiry, the strictness of the rules was relaxed in favour of Brinjarras travelling through the forests.

Financial results.

157. The financial result of the year's forest administration was highly successful. Although the year 1866-67 comprised only eleven months, yet the forest revenue for that year was nearly double the receipts of the preceding year. The increase in income accrued both in the reserved and in the unreserved forests. The net income of the Forest department for the year 1866-67 may be thus shown :—

CREDITOR.	RUPEES.	DEBTOR.	RUPEES.
Cash receipts of the year	3,70,719	Stock in hand at the beginning of the year...	1,62,598
Stock in hand at the year's end	2,28,947	Outstanding debts due to the Forest department at the beginning of the year	61,779
Outstanding debts due to the Forest department at the close of the year	10,271	Expenditure	1,45,708
		Total...	3,70,085
		Balance in favour of the Forest department ..	2,39,852
Total..	6,09,937	Total..	6,09,937

There was thus a surplus or net profit on the forest operations of the year 1866-67 of Rs. 2,39,852 (£23,985).

Progressive increase of Forest revenue.

158. The rate at which the forest income of these Provinces has increased, during the last three years, may be seen from the following figures :—

Year.	*Gross income.*		*Net surplus computed as in the foregoing paragraph.*	
1864-65	Rs. 89,306	(£8,930)	Rs. 1,08,083	(£10,808)
1865-66	„ 2,02,643	(£20,264)	„ 1,37,162	(£13,716)
1866-67	„ 3,70,719	(£37,072)	„ 2,39,852	(£23,985)

The fiscal results of the year's forest management exhibit a further satisfactory feature, in respect of the smallness of the outstanding debts. In previous years the unrealized revenue has been considerable. During the year under report, only 3 per cent of the revenue was uncollected at its close.

CHAPTER XII

CENSUS.

Census of 1866.

159. During the year 1866-67, a regular census of the population was, with the sanction of the Supreme Government, taken in these Provinces. No enumeration of the inhabitants had previously been undertaken, though estimates had on various occasions been framed. In districts where the regular settlement of the land revenue was going on, and the operation known as the house-census had been effected, the materials for such estimates were full and reliable. In some parts of the country, there were no data for population statistics, save such facts as could be gathered by a general enquiry.

Agency employed.

160. The census of 1866 was taken after the most approved method. Effort was made to count every soul who slept in the Central Provinces on the night between the 5th and 6th days of November. No special paid agency was employed in effecting the census. Servants of Government in all departments lent their aid in instructing and supervising the enumerators, who had to do the actual work of counting. The people themselves, after they had got over the novelty and strangeness of the affair, seemed quite ready to help as far as they could. In cities and towns the Municipal Committees conducted the census, and in the larger places they received aid and advice from the resident Government officials. An enumerator was told off to every hundred houses in towns, and to every country village. It was his business to go round his beat on the night of the 5th November, and fill in the columns of the census paper, house by house. The enumerators were usually landholders or their agents, village accountants, schoolmasters, petty shopkeepers, and in fact any educated men who volunteered for the business. In some of the more remote and less civilized tracts, policemen, who could write, were told off to count the people. Care was taken that all the enumerators, whoever they were, fully understood what they had to do.

Affair passed off well.

161. The affair passed off well, and the counting was successfully done. It gave rise to no apprehension or distrust among the people. Absurd rumours were indeed afloat in some parts of the country, as to what the Government would do at the census. But these stories gained few believers, and they had by the night of the census, lost what little credit may at first have been given to them. A separate report upon the results of

the census has been submitted to the Supreme Government; but it may be well to offer here a few of the more valuable statistics that were obtained.

General results.

162. With the population returns were collated the statistics of area, of cultivated and waste land, which have during the last few years been furnished by the Revenue and Topographical surveys and by the Settlement department. The total population of the Central Provinces was returned at 9,104,511 souls. The statistics for the feudatory chiefships were not quite so reliable as those for British territory. If the inhabitants of those chiefships had been regularly counted, the total population would probably have reached nearly to nine and a quarter millions. This sum exceeds by about half a million the estimates based on the house-census of former years. Further testimony is thus added to the opinion that estimates of population, based on a house-census or on a mere general enquiry, are usually under the truth. The total area of the Central Provinces was returned at 114,718 square miles, of which 24,959 square miles were under the plough, and 89,759 were fallow, waste, hill, and forest. The density of the population in these Provinces may be thus compared with other countries. In these Provinces there are 79 souls to the square mile; in the North-Western Provinces there are 438; in the territories under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal 311; in the Punjab there are 156 souls to the square mile. The alternations of density in different parts of the country were considerable. The population was thickest in the Nerbudda valley, and in the country round Nagpore; it was most sparse in the Sautpoora hill districts, and in the valley of the Mahanuddy.

Comparative density of population.

Towns and Villages.

163. The number and size of the towns and villages of the Central Provinces are as follows:—

3 cities containing over 50,000 souls each; 8 towns containing from 10,000 to 50,000 souls each; 31 towns containing from 5,000 to 10,000 souls each; 712 towns containing from 1,000 to 5,000 souls each; 29,223 villages containing under 1,000 souls each.

Towns are most numerous in the country round Nagpore, where in the troublous times at the end of the last century, people were compelled for self-protection against the Pindarrees and other robber hordes, to cluster together round some fort or castle. In several towns of the Nagpore Province there are large colonies of the Koshtee (weaver) tribe, who settle in places possessing facilities for the exercise of their calling. It is observable that, though the total population according to the census, is considerably above previous estimates, yet the inhabitants of cities and towns are fewer than they formerly were. There seems little doubt, but that the urban population in these Provinces is really decreasing, save only at a few towns on the railway lines, or at one or two commer-

Decrease in urban population:

cial centres which have recently risen to importance. The causes of the exodus from towns would appear to be that the necessaries of life, though cheap nowhere, are yet somewhat less dear in the rural districts. Again, the price of the produce of land has risen vastly during the last few years. Additional labour and capital is being, year by year, employed in agriculture. Certain branches of manufacturing industry, on the other hand, such as cloth weaving and the like, are on the decline. Machine made goods are underselling the local hand-wove fabrics. And it is believed that hundreds or even thousands of families, who formerly dwelt in towns and lived by spinning or weaving, have during the last few years migrated to villages, and now support themselves by agriculture.

its probable causes.

Proportion of sexes.

164. The population was divided, according to sexes and ages, as follows:—

Adult males	2,695,566
Adult females	2,712,480
Infant males	1,954,363
Infant females	1,742,102

For the purposes of these returns, children under fourteen years of age were reckoned as infants; all above that age were counted as adults. The inequality between the number of males and the number of females is much smaller in these Provinces than in other parts of India where a regular census has been taken; thus—

In the North Western Provinces the men are to the women	100 to 86·6
In the Punjab " " "	100 to 81·8
In the Central Provinces " " "	100 to 95·4

The proportion between males and females is more nearly equal among adults than among infants, from which it may perhaps be deduced that female infant life is better preserved than male infant life.

Return of Castes.

165. The total number of Europeans and East Indians is returned at 6,026 souls. The numbers belonging to the different castes or tribes were shown in the census returns. The Mussulmans numbered only 237,962 souls, thus forming an insignificant portion of the whole population. Among the more important agricultural castes, may be mentioned the Koonbees, numbering 676,270 souls, who constitute the main-stay of the agricultural community in the Nagpore country. The Lodhees, 234,767 souls, cultivate and own much land in the Nerbudda valley. Rajpoots are among the chief landowners of the Nerbudda country, and they number 241,748 souls. The Korihs, who have covered the Wyngunga valley with lakes and tanks, were returned at 139,776 souls. The Chumars, who in these Provinces are found only in Chutteesgurh, and who are the chief landholders there, number 518,389 souls.

Agricultural classes.

Artizan castes.

166. Among the artizan classes, the Koshtees, or cloth-weavers, are an important tribe. They live in the towns and cities of the Nagpore country, and weave the fine and ornamental fabrics which are well known all over the Deccan. They were returned at 101,590 souls. The Dhers, a tribe which has its members in every city, town and village, who weave and spin, work as farm servants, and as day labourers (cookies), are most useful people. They number 566,438 souls.

Aboriginal tribes.

167. Among the aboriginal or hill tribes, the Gonds are the most numerous. They number altogether 1,469,355 souls. They abound chiefly in the hill tracts. In the districts of Seonee and Mundla they constitute nearly half the population. They own and cultivate land, doing their tillage after a careless, desultory fashion. The Bheels, returned at 25,454 souls, are chiefly found in the Nimar district. The Bygars of Mundla, and the Korkoos of Hoshungabad were also counted. The Mariah (or Maree) Gonds, who inhabit the country between the Wyngunga and Indrawuttee rivers, were returned at 36,663 souls. In the old maps this country was said to be "inhabited by Marees who live in trees." But more recent investigation has shown that this race is by no means so uncivilized as had been supposed. The total number of these aboriginal races, who differ widely in physiognomy, in language, in customs, and in creed from the Hindoo tribes around them, is 1,995,663 souls. They, most of them, subsist by raising the poorest kind of crops in forest lands, by cutting timber, by collecting forest produce, and by hunting. They are, some of them, taking to a more settled and steadier mode of living than was heretofore their custom. Much attention is now being directed to these interesting tribes, and papers upon their language, their religion, and their peculiar customs are published from time to time.

Return of callings.

168. Among the most interesting figures in the return of professions, into which the population, excluding Feudatoryships, is divided, were the following:—

People engaged in agriculture	4,879,431
People not engaged in agriculture	3,582,381

It would thus seem that more than half, or 57 per cent of the whole population make their living directly from the soil. In the North-Western Provinces the proportion of agriculturists is larger, being 64 per cent; but in the Punjab the proportion is smaller, being only 56 per cent on the whole population. Among the commercial classes may be noticed the following:—

Bankers or money-dealers	52,405
Grain-sellers and tobacconists ...	77,419
Cloth and English goods merchants and petty dealers	75,126

Among the statistics of the artizan and miscellaneous professions, the subjoined figures may prove interesting:—

Workers in iron	79,491
do. in gold and silver	48,590
do. in copper and brass	13,621
Potters	47,097
Weavers and spinners	414,124
Carpenters	55,148
Masons and stone-workers	14,023
Shoemakers and leather-workers ..	122,148
Oil-makers and oil-sellers	59,350
Labourers (coolies, &c.,)	949,867
Washermen	47,855
Carriers (Brinjarras)	41,833
Barbers	79,945
Servants, including officials and Government servants	537,564
Other non-agriculturists	875,775

Value of census results.

169. The statistical information obtained at the census, which has been described in this Chapter, may be regarded as reliable and interesting. The statistics will, it is hoped, form a valuable basis for future administrative and fiscal measures.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUBBULPORE EXHIBITION.

Exhibition of 1866.

170. In last year's report a detailed notice was offered of the Exhibition of products and manufactures held at Nagpore in December 1865. It was also mentioned that, in order to give an abiding effect to the impressions left by the Nagpore show, another Exhibition would under the orders of the Supreme Government be held at Jubbulpore. This intention was carried out. Rs. 15,000 (£1,500) were granted to the Exhibition from the public revenues; Rs. 52,000 (£5,200) were contributed by private persons resident in the Central Provinces; and the various Local Committees gave about Rs. 25,000 (£2,500) more towards the Exhibition. The Central Committee of the Exhibition had thus about a lakh of rupees (£10,000) at their disposal. The period from April to December was spent in preparing the Exhibition grounds and buildings, in collecting and arranging articles. On the 26th December the Exhibition was opened in a handsome, domed edifice built for the occasion.

For the Nerbudda country.

171. The Nagpore Exhibition had been seen by the people of the districts round Nagpore, and of the whole country below the Sautpoora hills. A few of the wealthier inhabitants of the Saugor and Nerbudda territories also came. But the middle classes, the landowners and traders of the Nerbudda country, were not able to visit Nagpore. These people who, as a class, are well to do and intelligent, came in crowds to the Jubbulpore Exhibition. Only a few visitors came from below the Sautpoora hills. But Koonbees and Lodhees from the Nerbudda valley; Rajpoots from the Vindhyan country, from the borders of Bundelcund and Baghelcund; Gonds and other aboriginal tribes from the wilds of Mundla and Seonee, were present on the occasion. Over 20,000 people visited the Exhibition, and the ground and buildings were crowded during the hours for which the Exhibition was open to the public. The contrast between the outward garb of the visitors at Nagpore and at Jubbulpore attested that the two Exhibitions were attended by different races of men. The crowd at Nagpore presented the appearance of a sea of red turbans and white calico coats; the breadth of the turbans being greater or less, according as its wearer was a native of the Deccan or of the Nagpore country. At Jubbulpore the long, padded, green tunics, worn by the men of Bundelcund and Baghelcund alternated with the quilted, light-green jackets of the people of the

Aspect of the visitors.

Nerbudda valley. The head-dress of the Jubbulpore Native visitors was either a close fitting skull cap, covering the ears and cheek bones in the case of the Bundeelas; or a small, ill-tied, white calico turban in the case of the men of the Nerbudda country.

Exhibition arrangements.

172. A separate report, with a selection of papers regarding the Exhibition and the products and manufactures displayed there, has been submitted to the Supreme Government. It may, however, be well to notice here a few of the most interesting articles. There were six groups, namely:—

I.—Live-stock.
II.—Machinery.
III.—Raw produce.
IV.—Forest and mineral products.
V.—Manufactures.
VI.—Fine Arts.

Live-stock.

173. The live-stock was shown in pens, over which an awning of matting had been stretched. The show of cattle was very good, as indeed it always should be where bullocks do all the ploughing, and all the carrying work of the country. The largest, and most blood looking animals were the bulls of Mysore and Nellore breeds, which Local Committees have bought for breeding purposes. Smaller in size, but still of excellent form, were the prize bullocks from Nagpore. Indeed, it would seem that for plough work in black soil, and for rapid draught, a well-bred pair of Nagpore bullocks is as good as could be. But the average cattle of an ordinary farmer are, as yet, much inferior to the best Nagpore breeds. The prizes obtained by cattle owners at the Jubbulpore Exhibition were of considerable amount, and may stimulate breeders to improve their stock. The show of sheep was small; some of the specimens were good, but they belonged to European gentlemen and were stall fed. The Government sheep farm at Dumoh gained a prize for its show of lambs. There were more native bred horses at the Jubbulpore Exhibition than at Nagpore. Horse-breeding, indeed, has always been carried on to some extent in parts of the Nerbudda valley. Some of the mares with foals, bred by landowners, possessed both blood and bone. The prize mare was from the Wurdah district. On the whole, it would seem that horse-breeding, which has been for a score of years almost unknown in the districts below the Sautpoora hills, may again come into favour with the people.

Machinery.

174. Two spacious halls were filled with machinery of European make. And in the space between these buildings hydraulic machines worked by bullocks, and driven by steam were exhibited. The show of agricultural, carpentry, iron work, and hydraulic machinery was really good. The Exhibition Committee rightly judged this department to be very impor-

tant. They sent to Calcutta one of their number to select machines, which might be usefully shown to the people; and they guaranteed the firms who contributed machinery from loss. In this way a large and suitable assortment of machines was secured, comprising steam pumps, steam saws, and carpentry machines; winnowing and threshing machines; mills for grinding and sifting flour; machines for cutting and punching iron; cotton gins, and presses. Some of these were driven by steam, some by bullock, and some by hand power. They were worked from time to time in the presence of wondering crowds and their mechanism and scope were explained to the spectators. As some evidence of the interest taken in this portion of the show, it may be stated that nearly 50,000 rupees' (£5,000) worth of the articles exhibited in this department were bought. Some of the useful machines shown at Jubbulpore, are now at work in towns and villages of the different districts.

Raw produce.

175. The show of raw produce was very large, and was moreover very well arranged. The building set apart for this group was well lighted and excellently adapted for its display. The first prize for wheat was won by a sample from the Hoshungabad district. Not only did the best specimen of wheat come from Hoshungabad, but the whole collection of wheat samples sent from Hoshungabad was adjudged by the Jury to be much superior to the contributions from any other district. It is somewhat noteworthy that wheat from this district has now won the first prize at four Exhibitions, in different parts of the country, namely, at Lucknow, Nagpore, Jubbulpore and Agra. The excellence would appear to belong to the whole district, and not to the yield of any particular village; for the Hoshungabad exhibitors, who gained the first prizes on these occasions, have been different each time. The display of rice was large, and the general average merit of the samples was high. The first prizes were won by the lake districts of Bhundara and Chanda. The show of raw cottons was varied and extensive. The Hingunghat staple maintained its position as the best of indigenous cottons. The Cotton Commissioner exhibited an interesting assortment of cotton specimens from all parts of the world. The pulses and oil seeds were fairly represented. Among tubers, some fine potatoes, averaging over half a pound weight each, deservedly attracted attention. They were grown on the Chindwara hills from English seed.

Forest products.

176. The "forest and mineral products" of the Central Provinces were shown in the same hall with the raw produce. The Government Forest department made an excellent display, with its trophy of timbers, and its cabinets of miscellaneous forest fruits, drugs, fibres and resins. Some of the fibres were exceedingly good, but they are not, as yet, collected in sufficient quantity to form an article of trade. Next after timber and bamboos, the most important products of our forests, commercially speaking, are the resins. Stick lac, shell lac, and lac-dye were exhibited; the raw article being found in abundance in all our forest districts. Other important

and useful resins, such as the dammer from the saul tree *(shorea robusta)* were also represented. Among minerals, coal occupied the most important place. Specimens of excellent coal came from the Chindwara and Nursingpore districts. The first prize was won by a sample of coal, from an outcrop discovered last year at Sirgoree, in Chindwara, by Major Ashburner, who detected the seam in the side of a well. This Sirgoree coal also gained a prize at the Agra Exhibition. Excellent specimens of iron ore, and smelted iron were exhibited from the districts of Bhundara, Nursingpore, Chanda and Nimar. The trophies of building stones, contributed from the Jubbulpore, Chanda and Nagpore districts, were particularly fine. The mineral department of the Exhibition appeared to possess more interest than any other in the eyes of European visitors from other parts of India.

Minerals.

177. Among the articles in Group V, "manufactures," the contributions from other parts of India excelled, as indeed it was to be expected they should, the manufactures of the Central Provinces. The branches in which indigenous talent came out best, were cloth-weaving, and carving in wood and stone. The fine cotton cloths of the Nagpore country, and the embroidered cloths of Boorhanpore (in Nimar) have long been prized in this part of India. Many excellent specimens of these fabrics were contributed to the Jubbulpore Exhibition. The cutlery made by a Native of Nagpore, and the rope turned out at the workshops of Her Majesty's 1st Royal Regiment, were also the best things of their kind. Among articles contributed from places outside the Central Provinces may be mentioned the furniture from Calcutta and Madras, the glass-work from Messrs. Osler & Co., in Calcutta, carved wood-work and inlaid ivory work from Bombay; muslin from Madras, Cashmere shawls and pushmeenas from Amritsir; porcelain and china-ware from Mr. Read's factory at Colgong, in Behar; ornamental pottery from Lucknow; and a varied assortment of French manufactures contributed by M. Le-Chevalier Thenon, Consul of France.

Manufactures.

178. Articles belonging to the "fine arts" department were shown in the central hall with its domed roof, and in an *annexe* especially built for displaying pictures. The jurors gave special praise to the stone carving exhibited from the Saugor and Chanda districts. The best specimen in this branch of art was a piece of stone-work which had been prepared by Native workmen from Native designs for the adornment of a temple in an outlying village of Saugor. By chance the Deputy Commissioner saw the carving, and induced its owner to exhibit it at Jubbulpore before it was finally erected in the temple. Several small pieces of workmanship, in gold, silver, marble, and stone, made by Native workmen especially for this occasion, possessed much merit. They showed indeed that Native craftsmen can turn out things of beauty and taste, if only sufficient

Fine arts.

inducement be offered. The peculiar skill which is fostered in the neighbourhood of Native Courts, has not, it would seem, entirely died out. In the picture gallery were oil paintings, photographs coloured with oils, engravings, chromolithographs, and water-colour drawings. Some of these were of great merit, they were all interesting. No collection nearly approaching in excellence to the Jubbulpore show of pictures had been seen in this part of India before.

Effects left by the Exhibition.

179. In last year's report a confident hope was expressed that Exhibitions of this sort do leave good results behind them. The experience of this, the second Exhibition, would seem to show that this hope was not without warrant. In some branches of manufacture there was a marked improvement in the Jubbulpore as compared with the Nagpore Exhibition. The advance was the more marked in those departments of industry, which receive European supervision. By cattle breeders also, and growers of produce, much encouragement and instruction was also derived. These Exhibitions have also been instrumental in bringing landowners to purchase and use hydraulic and agricultural machinery. The advantage which the extended use of machinery of this kind will cause to the country generally, is immense. To the officials and to the people themselves also these Exhibitions have been a means of teaching what the country, in which they live and work, can and does yield.

On the whole, there seems ground for believing that the seed of enlightenment, and perhaps of material advancement, has been broadly and deeply sown by the two Exhibitions which have been held in these Provinces during the years 1866 and 1867.

CHAPTER XIV.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION I.—AGRICULTURE.

Area under the several crops.

180. Until the land revenue settlement shall have been completed and reported upon for all districts, reliable statistics of agriculture will not be attained for the whole of the Central Provinces. But so far as the Settlement has progressed, it is shown that in 15 of the 18 districts the area under autumn sowings, in the season 1864-65, was 4,616,035 acres, and under spring sowings 4,271,370 acres, distributed thus :—

Autumn crops...	Cotton ...	610,255	acres.
	Rice ...	1,472,656	„
	Jowaree (millet)	1,246,749	„
	Oil-seeds ...	200,270	„
	Miscellaneous	1,086,105	„
Spring crops ...	Wheat ...	2,843,414	„
	Gram (chenna)	567,214	„
	Oil-seeds ...	265,685	„
	Sugarcane ...	59,779	„
	Opium ...	7,584	„
	Tobacco ...	14,888	„
	Miscellaneous	512,806	„

The above may be accepted as a general approximate measure of the appropriation of cultivated land to the different kinds of crops in these Provinces. The largest proportion is taken by wheat, then follow rice and jowaree (millet), the three staples collectively occupying about two-thirds of the cultivated land. Cotton takes up about one fifteenth, principally in the valley of the Wurdah, where, however, it occupies about two-fifths of the quantity of land reserved for the autumn harvests. Pulses take up one-ninth, oil-seeds one-twentieth of the whole area under the plough. Opium cultivation, recently set free from a local impost, has increased from seven to twelve thousand acres in the past year. If dealers were to arrange satisfactorily for the local manufacture of opium in the form required for foreign export, the

cultivation might extend indefinitely. Some attention has been given to the cultivation of sugarcane, which is a very paying crop, by the distribution among cultivators of superior kinds of foreign seed.

Agricultural machinery.

181. No very marked success has yet attended the importation of European agricultural machinery in these Provinces. Every district has purchased some machines to be exhibited as models, and occasionally worked for the instruction of the cultivating classes. A few of the more wealthy landholders have themselves purchased irrigating and other agricultural machinery at the Exhibitions held at Nagpore and Jubbulpore.

Propagation of trees and plants.

182. The Agri-Horticultural Society of Nagpore continues its efforts as reported in past years. It imports foreign varieties of useful seeds and plants for experiment in its large garden, and for distribution to district gardens and native cultivators. From its well stocked nurseries many thousands of young seedlings have been supplied to form avenues on the station roads and along the roads in the interior. The propagation of the *Casuarina* for this purpose, literally by the thousand, has been a great success. For the first time since horticulture has been practised in these Provinces, the Cypress and Bamboo were last year raised from imported seed. The former particularly was a very rare tree in these parts, and was to be found only in the gardens of the wealthy; high prices indeed were paid for Cypress trees to the Cabul itinerant merchants who occasionally brought down a few hundred seedlings for sale. The tree may now become as common as it is ornamental. Several hundred seedlings of the *Eucalyptus*, better known perhaps as the Australian blue gums, were coming on very promisingly in the Society's garden, but few have outlived the heat of last summer. At the last meeting of the Society the attention of the Administration was drawn to the large exportation of the Nagpore orange (sungtra) to the Bombay market since the opening of the railway, and to the advisability of recommending orange culture to market gardeners in the districts through which the railway line runs. The Deputy Commissioners have accordingly been requested to make the growing demand for oranges widely known. The fame of this fruit has been long established—in a note left by the late General Jenkins, a great promoter of horticulture and one of the earliest members of the Agri-Horticultural Society of India, the Nagpore *sungtras* are said to be "undoubtedly the finest oranges in India."

Agri-Horticultural Society's finances.

183. The proceedings of the Society, containing much interesting matter, are periodically published for general information. At the close of the year the Society numbered 154 members, of whom 41 are natives. The income of the year, including the grant-in-aid from Government of Rs. 1,200 (£120) per annum, was Rs. 7,738 (£774) and the expenditure Rs. 8,538 (£854).

Gardens at outlying districts.

184. The public gardens at the head-quarters of districts are reported generally as in good order. They are maintained by grants from local funds and private subscriptions. Their operations are annually reviewed in a separate report which is published for general information.

SECTION II.—COTTON.

Cotton season.

185. The season of 1866-67 was generally favourable to the cotton crop. Rain fell seasonably at the sowing time, and while the plant was growing; no rain fell after the bolls began to appear, until the cotton pickings were nearly completed. The out-turn of cotton, both as to quantity and as to quality, was better than had been known for some years.

Area under cotton crop.

186. The area under cotton cultivation, for the seasons of 1865-66 and 1866-67, may be thus compared.—

	Acres sown with cotton.	
	1865-66.	1866-67.
In the Nerbudda valley north of the Sautpoora range of hills	229,652	192,054
In the Nagpore country south of the hills	289,189	318,932
In the Chutteesgurh and Mahanuddy country	68,557	100,736
Total ..	587,398	611,722

There has thus been a considerable increase in the amount of land sown with cotton in the Nagpore country, which is the most important and best known cotton tract in these Provinces. The recent general fall in the price of cotton had more effect in contracting cotton sowings in the Nerbudda valley, than in the Nagpore country. The reason would appear to be, that the Nerbudda cotton, being inferior to and less remunerative than the Nagpore (Hingunghat) variety, was displaced by cereals, which ruled at extraordinarily high prices at the sowing season of 1866.

The season's out-turn.

187. The average yield of cleaned cotton per acre was reckoned in last year's report, at from 50 to 60lbs. for the Nagpore country, and at from 40 to 45lbs. for the rest of the Central Provinces. The approximate correctness of

this estimate has, during the past year, received much confirmation from several carefully conducted experiments. Indeed, if the estimate errs at all, the error would be that the average out-turn of an acre of cotton in the Nagpore country, in good years, is somewhat understated. At these rates the aggregate out-turn of the season would be about 32½ millions of pounds of clean cotton, or 81,000 bales of 400lbs. each. About 7½ millions of pounds, or 18,370 bales of cotton were brought into these Provinces during the year 1866-67, from Berar, from the Nizam's territory, and from other parts of India, in order that they might be despatched to Bombay under the name of "Hingunghat." Out of the whole 40 million pounds thus available, 29 million pounds, or 72,990 bales were exported from these Provinces towards Bombay.

Cotton Commissioner's appointment.

188. Much has been done during the year 1866-67 towards developing cotton cultivation, and advancing the cotton trade of the Central Provinces. In September 1866, the post of Cotton Commissioner for the Central Provinces and the Berars was constituted; and Mr. Rivett-Carnac, who had gained much knowledge of cotton affairs and of cotton growers while settling the land tax of the chief cotton districts, was appointed to the office. His duty was, as laid down by Mr. Temple, to be,—

Firstly, the improvement of cotton cultivation, whether by the introduction of exotic cotton, or by the further development of the indigenous plant.

Secondly, the amendment of the processes of picking, cleaning, and packing by which cotton is prepared for the market.

Thirdly, the perfecting of arrangements for the transport of cotton to the sea-board.

Improvement of cotton culture.

189. A separate report regarding the Cotton Commissioner's operations will be laid before the Supreme Government. But it may be well to offer here a brief resumé of the year's operations under the three headings mentioned in the foregoing paragraph. *Firstly*, with reference to cotton cultivation. In last year's report was given a summary of the measures undertaken to introduce into the Wurdah district acclimatized New Orleans cotton. The experiments were so far successful that the plants came up well, and bore a fairly remunerative crop. During the year 1866-67 the experiments were continued, and results obtained were better than in the preceding year. Five fields, with an aggregate area of 34 acres, were sown with the acclimatized New Orleans seed gained from the preceding year's experiments. The

Introduction of exotic cotton.

plants came up well, and they yielded an average of 64lbs. of clean cotton per acre. The fibre was pronounced by Bombay dealers to be fine and clean, though not so strong as the Dharwar acclimatized cotton. 133 acres were sown with this seed by the landholders; the results of their experiments were various. In some fields a large yield, considerably heavier than the average yield of indigenous cotton, was obtained; while in other fields the experiment was comparatively speaking a failure. Even after the carefully conducted experiments of the last two years, it is still doubtful whether acclimatized New Orleans cotton is,—considering all the circumstances of the soil, the people, and the rain-fall,—better suited to the Wurdah country than the indigenous plant. The experiments under Government Agency will be continued; and some landholders, who found the foreign cotton pay, will again plant it. But no special efforts will be made to extend its culture; and the acclimatized New Orleans cotton must be left to compete with the indigenous variety, and to make its way, if it can, by its own merits.

Improvement of the indigenous cotton.

190. The efforts of the Cotton Commissioner, and those working with him, have not been confined to the introduction of what may, or may not be a better variety of cotton. Much has been done both by precept and example to induce the cotton growers of the Hingunghat country to improve the native. Three consecutive years of patient effort in this direction are now bearing fruit; and it is considered that, in respect of weeding cotton fields, and of picking the cotton promptly and regularly, much improvement is apparent. One great cause for this amendment on the old practice is the presence in the country of European merchants, who pay higher for well picked cotton. In respect of rotation of crops and of selection of seed, the people of the Hingunghat country have evinced much practical sense. They are now beginning to reserve for next year's sowings the seed of the largest bolls and the strongest plants. Cotton gardens, under the supervision of Government Officers, are also being established for the culture of pedigree cotton, from which a large quantity of first-rate seed will be available for cotton growers.

Extension of the Hingunghat variety.

191. Though the Hingunghat cotton,—being, as it is, the best native cotton in India,—does not need to be displaced by other varieties; there are other parts of these Provinces, such as the Nerbudda valley, the Chutteesgurh country, and Sumbulpore, where the indigenous cotton is below the average of western India. Into these districts the Cotton Commissioner has begun to introduce Hingunghat cotton. To this end he purchased selected parcels of cotton seed, and sent them to ten of the principal cotton districts. This seed has been sold at cost price to cotton growers; and several thousands of acres in the Sangor and Nerbudda country and in Nimar, are now being sown with Hingunghat seed. Cotton gardens for the production of pedigree

cotton seed have also been formed at the head-quarters of each cotton growing district. The result of these measures will be seen next year: but judging from experience in the adjacent province of Khandeish, the substitution of superior Indian varieties for an inferior indigenous cotton, will be a success. On the Cotton Commissioner devolved the business of selecting, buying, and despatching Hingunghat seed, not only for our own districts, but also for the Berars, for Khandeish, and other parts of the Bombay Presidency. Small parcels of Hingunghat seed were asked for by, and supplied to certain districts of Oudh and the North-Western Provinces. The total amount of selected Hingunghat seed distributed by the Cotton Commissioner in this manner amounted to about eight hundred tons, an amount which will suffice to sow 200,000 acres. About one-eighth of the whole was taken by districts of the Central Provinces. The remainder went to other territories.

Preparation of the staple for market.

192. *Secondly*, in regard to improving the processes by which cotton is prepared for the market. The main difficulties have been that Indian cotton is dirty and full of leaf, and that it is not properly packed for transport. Cotton contracts dirt in many ways, but chiefly from the careless or dilatory picking of the fibre from the bush, from imperfect ginning, and from being exposed for sale in dusty, ill-regulated market places. In respect of promptitude and regularity in picking cotton, improvement is already apparent. The business of ginning has, for years back, been more carefully done at Hingunghat than in any other cotton tract of Central India. But the operation is a slow one, and the gins of the country are clumsy. Effort has been made to introduce improved gins; almost every known kind of hand gin has been tried; but, as yet, no really satisfactory hand gin, which could take the place of the native gin (churka), has been found. There is more than one kind of gin which cleans cotton admirably when worked by steam or bullock power. The introduction of ginning machinery into these Provinces is now beginning. Much has been done for the improvement of cotton marts; and there are now in the best cotton growing districts many market places, where suitable yards paved with stone have been enclosed, in which cotton can be kept with a minimum of risk of fire, and of injury from dust or dirt.

Pressing machinery.

193. Much has also been done, during the year 1866-67, towards removing the difficulty in the way of packing cotton for transport. In the first instance, the Local Committees had to purchase such cotton presses as were available, to set them up, and to work them. In this way several wooden presses, of the kind known as half-presses, have been set up in the cotton districts through which the railway passes. Convenient machinery for weighing cotton, as well as appliances for lashing and packing bales have also been provided. At first, the local dealers would not set up

presses of their own, and were even backward in bringing their bales to the half-presses set up by the Local Committees. As the season wore on, and the stocks of cotton awaiting transport to Bombay became greater, merchants saw that the Railway Company gave a preference to pressed bales, and they began to bring their bales to the presses, which soon had more work than they could do. The habit of pressing bales has now taken root, the Local Fund Committees are disposing of their presses to private parties; a full power press is being set up at Hingunghat by a European Firm; and before long, all the cotton exported from the Central Provinces will be pressed or half pressed before despatch.

Transport of cotton by Railway.

194. *Thirdly*, in regard to perfecting arrangements for the transport of cotton to the sea-board. Cotton finds its way along the new metalled roads, or along cross country tracks to the several railway stations. But, as the whole crop is ready for transport to Bombay within the three spring months, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company finds difficulty in carrying away at once in its waggons all the cotton that comes to its stations. In order to assist the railway traffic department, cotton yards were established at each railway station. All the cotton coming for transport was registered, and stacked as it came; allotments of waggons were to be made to cotton dealers according to priority of arrival; and special arrangements were made to prevent or extinguish fires in the cotton yard. This system, first introduced by Mr. Cordery, Deputy Commissioner of Akola, in Berar, has been found to work well, so long as the railway traffic department fulfils its part of the arrangement. Unfairness on the part of station masters is prevented; the amount of cotton awaiting transport at each station is known; and the traffic department of the railway can make its plans accordingly. Thanks to the special exertions of the railway authorities, nearly all the cotton of the season 1866-67 had been conveyed to Bombay before the end of April 1867.

Cotton Frauds Act.

195. Another measure very important in its bearing upon the Hingunghat cotton trade has been advanced a stage during the year 1866-67. The staple of the Nagpore country bears so much superior a name to other cottons of Northern and Central India, that there is much temptation for dealers to bring Nerbudda, or other cheap and inferior cottons to Hingunghat; to mix them with the real Hingunghat article, and then send the whole down to Bombay under the name of "Hingunghats." Practices of this sort have already to some extent prevailed. But the door for such frauds will be much wider, now that bales are pressed at Hingunghat for export beyond the seas. During the past season some mixed cotton of this kind went down to Bombay from the Wurdah district; and there is risk of the Hingunghat cotton losing its good name if such malpractices continue. As the law now stands they cannot be prevented. But there is an enactment in force in the Bombay

Presidency, known as the "Cotton Frauds Act," which makes penal the adulteration of cotton; and provides funds and an agency for watching every bale of cotton that is pressed, and for affixing to it a stamped scriptive of its contents. The Supreme Government has under consideration a bill for extending this Act to the Central Provinces; and the Bombay Legislature has before it a bill for placing some portion of the special Cotton Frauds Act fund at the disposal of this Administration. In this way it will be possible to have a staff of Cotton Inspectors ready by next cotton season to check the adulteration of Hingunghat cotton, and to prevent the grosser kinds of fraud, such as placing stones or mud in the middle of bales, which become possible wherever full power presses are set up.

SECTION III.—ARBORICULTURE.

Rearing and planting of trees.

196. Steady progress has been made in the planting of groves and avenues along the imperial and district roads in these Provinces. The following is an abstract of the results obtained in the past and previous years :—

	Up to close of 1865-66.		*During* 1866 67.
Nurseries established	279	..	122
Number of miles of avenue planted	562½	..	243¾
Number of groves	229	..	103

The number of trees planted out during the past year, either in places where trees planted in previous years had perished or been destroyed, or in new lengths of avenue, was 133,645. Of this number 71,745 were raised in the Belaspore district from seed sown in the spot where the tree was to grow. This mode of raising avenues is reported to be both economical and successful. In Saugor, on the contrary, where indeed arboriculture has from the first been perseveringly and systematically extended, the most approved plan was found to be the planting out of trees from the nurseries when they were from 2 to 3 years old. The system of rearing avenues from cuttings of varieties of the *Ficus* species have been tried in almost all the districts and invariably failed. The plan of watering trees along miles of avenue by means of moisture, supplied through the pores of an earthen pot sunk in the soil near the roots of the plant, and replenished every 15 or 20 days, is favorably reported on by all the Deputy Commissioners who have tried it. The Deputy Commissioner of Saugor only, finds the arrangment fail; he employs a Bhistee (water carrier) and a gardener on every mile of road during

the dry months. The statistics, however, are not so complete as to show which is the most economical system *in the end.*

Avenues planted by landholders.

197. Hoshungabad, Nagpore and Wurdah are the only districts in which landholders have undertaken the care of trees in avenues and groves for cash remuneration; Rs. 1,661 having thus been paid in the year for the care of 49 miles of avenue and 13 groves. In some other districts landholders took up the work on the understanding that they should enjoy the usufruct of the trees. There were thus altogether under the care of landholders at the close of the year, 269½ miles of avenue and 253 groves.

Expenditure of Local Committees.

198. The expenditure from local funds in all districts on account of the above operations was Rs. 38,998. In the previous year it was Rs. 30,666

Arboriculture by Public Works Department.

199. The tree planting operations conducted by the Public Works Department may be thus stated. Up to the close of 1865-66 there were 155½ miles of avenue and 9 groves planted; during 1866-67 there were 38½ miles of avenue and 14 groves planted. The expenditure was Rs. 16,376 and Rs. 18,311 in the two years respectively.

Total outlay on Arboriculture.

200. The total expenditure on arboriculture from Local Funds and from the general revenues was thus Rs. 49,399, and may be thus compared with the expenditure of the previous year:—

	From Local Funds.		*From general Revenues.*	
	1865-66.	1866-67.	1865-66.	1866-67.
By the Civil authorities	26,186	31,088	0	0
By the Public Works Dept.	4,480	7,910	12,049	10,401

SECTION IV.—WASTE LANDS.

Area of Government waste lands.

201. The waste lands belonging to Government extend over about twenty-four thousand square miles of these Provinces. Nearly the whole of this area has been marked off in a permanent manner. Detailed registers, descriptive of the plots into which the waste lands are divided, have been prepared for eight districts. These registers are from time to time published in the Local Official Gazette.

Sales of waste lands.

202. During the year 1866-67 sixty-five plots, aggregating 46,269 acres of land were sold in fee simple under the waste land sale rules. The price realized was Rs. 1,28,893 (£12,889) or an average of Rs. 2-1-3 (4s.-1¾d.) an acre. The purchasers of waste lands are principally natives of India; and they come forward chiefly for waste plots in the more populous districts. Hitherto but little waste land has been taken up in the thinly populated districts of Mundla, Chanda, and Sumbulpore, where large tracts of excellent virgin land abound. Recently, however, a European settler of capital has applied for a large area of waste land in the Mundla district, close to a tributary of the Nerbudda. His purpose is to establish a large stock breeding farm. As the place is within sixty miles of the station, cantonment, and railway at Jubbulpore, there is good hope for success in such a venture. If it should prove remunerative, a further demand may perhaps spring up for the waste lands of Bijiragogurh and tracts situated near railway lines.

Clearance leases.

203. In last year's report it was mentioned that rules had been promulgated, whereby land could be taken on clearance leases. About a hundred applications for land have been made under these rules, but as yet no grants have been completed, as the applications were made too late in the year. Meanwhile, the land already under cultivation and the private wastes are more than sufficient to occupy the capital and labour of the whole agricultural population; so that there is no urgent necessity that Government wastes should be bought, or taken up on clearance lease. The usufruct of the natural products of Government wastes is annually leased out; and a rapidly increasing revenue is realized from this source.

SECTION V.—MINERAL RESOURCES.

Iron.

204. In previous reports has been described the richness of these Provinces in iron ores and in coal. The iron continues to be worked largely after the Native method; indeed the smelting of iron ore constitutes one of the principal industries of the Wyngunga valley. A collection of iron ores, and of smelted iron from the Bhundara district, gained the first medal at the Agra Exhibition of February 1867. At present iron is not worked anywhere in these Provinces after the European method. The iron works at Burwai, in Nimar, which were described in a previous report, are still disused. The Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company has not yet begun to work the Tendookhera iron mines.

Chindwara, or Pench Valley coal.

205. In last year's report it was mentioned that extensive discoveries of coal had been made in the Chindwara district, where eleven workable out-crops had been found; and that coal had also been found on the Wurdah river in the Chanda district. These discoveries have been prosecuted still further during the year 1866-67. Major Ashburner, to whose enterprise and research our extended knowledge of the Chindwara coal fields is mainly due, was deputed on special duty to trace the coal out-crops as far south as he could. The Chindwara coal fields, large though they be, are yet more than 70 miles from the nearest railway station, and between them and the railway, there is the main slope (ghat) of the Sautpoora hill range. If coal could be found south of the hills, such out-crops would be infinitely valuable, as they would be within 40 miles of Nagpore, and would be separated from the railway by no natural obstacles. Major Ashburner's investigations have resulted in the discovery of some thirty-four new out-crops of coal. Some of these are to the south of the coal fields previously known; but he has not succeeded in tracing the coal seams to the foot, or even to the crest of the Sautpoora slopes. One of the seams of coal discovered this year was 8 feet in thickness. So far as can be judged from our present information it would seem that the Chindwara coal field stretches from the Nerbudda coal seams on the north, under or slightly to the east of the Puchmurree hills, and thence westwards into the Baitool district. A Company, with a sufficient capital, has applied for a mining license over a portion of the Chindwara coal fields. Their application is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Nerbudda coal.

206. The Nerbudda Coal Company at Mohpani is making suitable preparations in order that it may be ready to deliver large quantities of coal, directly the Great Indian Peninsula Railway opens to the Gadurwara station. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company have made arrangements for testing the Towa valley coal during the current year, and for ascertaining whether it can be worked at remunerative rates. A careful examination was also made by the employés of the same Railway Company into the coal out-crops on the Shere river, at a spot some eighteen miles south of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and about thirty miles west of Jubbulpore. It is not yet certain whether this coal would pay for working.

Chanda coal.

207. Further examination has also been made of the Chanda coal field; and the Deputy Commissioner has succeeded in finding more out-crops, where the coal is of a much better quality than in the previously discovered seams. Mr. Blanford, of the Geological Survey, was able to examine this coal field during the current year. He considers that the best of the seams, yet brought to light, is on the right bank of the Wurdah in the Nizam's

Territory. It is considered probable, however, that this same seam may be found on the left bank in the Chanda district; and borings are being made with a view to verifying this anticipation. A careful analysis of the Chanda coals above alluded to, yielded the following results :—

	Bullarpore seam.		*Googoose seam.*
	average	*best*	
Percentage of carbon ..	50·2	49·9	40·
„ „ volatile matter	39·	42·4	43·5
„ „ ash	9·8	7·7	16·5

The coal therefore, though much inferior to the best English coals, is yet not far behind, in some most important qualities, the Raneegunj coal, which is now burnt in locomotives on the whole length of the East Indian Railway.

Sandstone rocks round Nagpore examined.

208. It having been deemed possible that coal might be found underlying the sandstone where it crops out at several spots in the neighbourhood of Nagpore, Mr. Blanford of the Geological Survey devoted six weeks to a careful examination of all the sandstone rocks near Nagpore, or in the direction of the Chindwara coal fields. The result of these investigations was to make it certain that there were no indications of coal on or near the surface at those localities. A careful comparison of the fossils found in these rocks, with the fossils of sandstone beds where coal is actually found, led to the conclusion that coal would not be found below the sandstone, and it was deemed inadvisable to incur the expense of trial borings.

Importance of these coal discoveries.

209. Notwithstanding the absence of coal in the sandstone rocks around Nagpore, the year 1866-67 has been very fruitful in discoveries of useful, workable coal seams. When it is borne in mind that none of the coal seams adverted to in this Chapter, are more than 80 miles distant from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Line; and that English coal is now being burnt in the locomotives on this line, at a cost on the Nagpore length of as much as 40 rupees (£4) a ton; the probable future value of the Central Provinces' coal fields becomes very apparent.

Slates.

210. Slates of different kinds were discovered, during the year 1866-67, both in the Chindwara and the Chanda districts. But the cleavage of the slates, yet found, is not sufficiently good to make the discovery of practical use. Lithographic stone of a serviceable kind has been found in the Raepore district; and stones of local manufacture have already come into general use at the lithographic presses of the Raepore Jail. The building stones of the Chanda and Jubbulpore districts maintained their name for excellence, by gaining prizes at the Agra and Jubbulpore Exhibition.

SECTION VI.—SURVEY.

211. During the year 1866-67 four parties of the Revenue Survey and two of the Topographical Survey have been at work in these Provinces. One of the Topographical parties transferred its operations during the past year from the Upper Godavery district to the Sautpoora hill country. Besides contributing first-rate geographical material, this party will effect a detailed survey of the more important forest reserves. Two parties of the Great Trigonometrical Survey were also employed in these Provinces; the one party is carrying out certain pendulum experiments in the centre of the Indian Peninsula; while the other is carrying a line drawn from the north to the south of India.

212. The result of the labours of the Revenue and Topographical Survey parties during the season 1866-67, may be thus shown:—

		Square miles surveyed.
by professional Revenue Survey	..	3,796
by Topographical Survey	...	800
	Total...	4,596

During the year under report doubts arose regarding the accuracy of some revenue survey work done in previous years. After a careful investigation, portions of this survey turned out to be incorrect, and had therefore to be done over again.

213. Progress has also been made in bringing out maps of the tracts surveyed. Maps of the Saugor and Jubbulpore districts, on a scale of four miles to the inch, have been published during the year 1866-67. A first-rate map of the Nagpore and Wurdah districts, on a scale of two miles to the inch, showing all village boundaries has been lithographed. This map has already been of much practical use in the revenue department. Several sheets of sub-divisional maps, on a scale of one inch to a mile have also been struck off. The Surveyor General has also published a map on a scale of 16 miles to an inch, of the Central Provinces, compiled from existing information. The map is of a very useful size; but it omits much information which it might contain. These omissions the Surveyor General is about to supply in a second edition of the map, which he has kindly undertaken to bring out.

SECTION VII.—FAIRS.

214. The periodical fairs held in different parts of the country, continue to receive the attention of the local authorities, and provision is always made for the protection of life and property by the stationing of Police parties in them. At the larger gatherings the Deputy Commissioner or his Assistant is usually present. Conservancy arrangements also receive attention.

Fairs.

215. During the year 1866-67, 61 fairs were held; and from the statistics collected on the spot, it is estimated that the aggregate value of property brought for sale was, Rs. 62,51,191 (£625,119); of which Rs. 37,79,230 (£377,923) worth was sold. These sales comprised English piece-goods and miscellaneous European articles worth Rs. 7,31,676 (£73,167), country manufactured articles worth Rs. 14,20,377 (£142,038), horses and ponies worth Rs. 16,506 (£1,650), cattle and sheep worth Rs. 5,99,511 (£59,951), and raw produce worth Rs. 9,21,056 (£92,106). The number of persons attending all these fairs is estimated at 1,583,970.

Merchandise at Fairs.

Section VIII.—Trade Statistics.

216. So much has been said in other parts of this report on the circumstances of the year, the harvests, and the revolution, so to speak, in the trade of the country caused by the railway, that it will suffice in this Section, if my remarks are confined to the gross commercial results of the year as exhibited by the trade returns. It will be remembered that the figures now offered are for eleven months of the year, viz. from July 1866 to May 1867. The returns had to be closed a month earlier than usual to admit of the information being collated in time for incorporation in this report.

217. The totals of the exterior export and import trade, that is, the trade of the Central Provinces with other countries and provinces, may be thus shown:—

		Tons.		*Value in £.*
Imports	... ...	117,010	...	4,642,063
Exports	... ...	77,931	...	4,340,491
	Total ...	194,941	..	8,982,554

This shows a considerable increase on previous years. But the returns for the year include a large quantity of what does not belong to the trade proper of the country, such as opium passing through Nimar from Malwa to Bombay, besides large quantities of Government stores and Railway plant. If these be excluded, we may compare the traffic of the year 1866-67 with the three preceding years, thus:—

		Tons.		*Value in £.*
1863-64	.. ..	102,341	...	3,909,008
1864-65	.. ..	134,719	..	4,386,251
1865-66	.. ..	136,265	..	5,519,766
1866-67	.. ..	175,561	..	6,517,864

218. The direction of this trade, or the countries with which it is carried on, may be seen at a glance from the following abstract of the returns:—

			Tons.	Rupees.	£.
West ..	Trade with Bombay, Berar, &c.	Imports ..	75,366	2,44,35,927	2,443,593
		Exports ..	46,600	3,58 94,359	3,589,436
		Total..	121,966	6,03,30,286	6,033,029
North ..	Trade with Northern India and Calcutta.	Imports ..	29,810	1,98,43,123	1,984,312
		Exports ..	19,183	64,70,603	647,060
		Total..	48,993	263,13,726	2,631,372
South ..	Trade with Madras & Hydrabad (Deccan.)	Imports ..	1,078	4,93,984	49,398
		Exports ..	1,538	4,90,819	49,082
		Total..	2,616	9,84,803	98,480
East ..	Trade with East Coast Districts and south-west Bengal.	Imports ..	10,756	16,47,601	164,760
		Exports ..	10,610	5,49,131	54,913
		Total..	21,366	21,96,732	219,673

The great preponderance of the trade with Bombay over that with countries on the north, south, and east, is only the natural consequence of the opening of the railway to Bombay during the year. Our commerce with the west had been gaining yearly over the Mirzapore trade. The excess of the Bombay over the Calcutta trade is this year greater than ever. But commerce with the north (Mirzapore, and the Ganges valley) will be keener as soon as the railway shall open for traffic to Jubbulpore in August next.

219. The principal articles entering into the trade above described may be thus shown:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds.	Rupees.	Maunds.	Rupees.
Cotton	89,611	21,26,611	398,762	90,89,947
Sugar	217,345	28,53,061	75,680	10,65,688
Salt	866,037	40,51,505	56,165	381,821
Grain	439,131	11,74,292	803,411	28,19,587
Oilseeds	66,916	2,43,201	40,523	1,74,143
Metals and hardware	316,820	47,05,089	43,394	11,56,965
English piece-goods	58,402	66,15,671	11,440	14,96,631
Miscellaneous European goods ...	57,404	34,90,887	25,361	18,79,542
Country cloth ...	20,056	17,36,588	52,893	56,05,898
Silk and silk cacoons	1,276	11,25,150	417	88,271
Horses, cattle and sheep No.	134,497	14,70,066	No. 30,085	5,58,503
Cocoanuts	61,860	5,84,314	4,066	58,663

There has been a slight falling off in the export of cotton as compared with the previous year, but a small increase compared with the two preceding years, as may be seen from the following comparison :—

	Years.		lbs.	*Value in £.*
Gross export of cotton..	1863-64	...	30,546,772	1,249,333
	1864-65	...	30,710,722	949,117
	1865-66	...	36,730,916	1,308,358
	1866-67	...	32,698,484	908,995

Of the quantity exported in 1866-67, there were 15,320,626lbs. registered by the railway at stations within the Central Provinces; 13,875,384lbs. crossed the frontier on carts westwards into Berar and Kandeish in the direction of railway stations on the line in those territories; and of the small remainder, half went down the Mahanuddy to Cuttack, and half to Mirzapore. While the sugar import trade with Mirzapore has not decreased, that with Bombay has quadrupled within the year, and promises to increase. Salt shows a slight increase in quantity with a considerable decrease in price. Both import and export of grain are considerably above previous years; but while the cheap inferior grains, such as millet, are imported, the more highly priced, corn and rice, are exported. The import of English piece-goods which fell in the previous year, has now slightly exceeded the highest figure reached in years antecedent. The export of country manufactured cloth has again decreased, though the decrease is but slight. The silk import trade has doubled within the year. There has been a slight decrease in the number of cattle imported. On the whole, there has been a net addition to the trade generally of 30,000 tons in weight of goods imported and exported; and in declared value, even in a year of lower prices as compared with the previous year, there has been an increase amounting to one million sterling.

Section IX.—Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Number of Dispensaries.

220. In previous reports the progress made from year to year in providing Dispensary institutions at the head-quarter stations or at principal towns in the different districts, was noticed. At the close of 1866 there were 18 main, and 33 branch Dispensaries in full working order. The number of branch Dispensaries has recently, under the sanction of the Supreme Government been increased to 38. Buildings for 16 more branch Dispensaries at selected towns, are either under constuction, or about to be taken in hand. Their cost is defrayable from funds raised by local subscription, and by grants from municipal revenues.

221. The difficulty in the way of establishing dispensary institutions has consisted, not so much in the absence of support from the Native community,—for this has been liberally offered wherever called for, but

with the scarcity of trained Native Doctors. To meet this want the Supreme Government has taken into favourable consideration a scheme for opening a Medical School at Nagpore for the training of men of the country to the profession of medicine. Such men are more likely to win the confidence of the people than foreigners, who moreover look upon this part of India with some disfavour. The scale of salaries allowed to Native Doctors is comparatively small. It might, perhaps, suffice for a native practising near his home; but it fails to satisfy people of other Provinces, and to retain their services at a distance from their own country. A part of the old jail building at Nagpore has been assigned to the medical school, and the contiguity of the City Hospital will prove an advantage in the practical teaching of the pupils.

Number of patients treated.

222. The number of patients applying for relief at all dispensaries during the past year, compared with the numbers in previous years, will be seen from the following figures:—

	Years.				
	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.
Number of male patients,	33,695	44,497	59,800	79,782	105,454
female „	8,410	13,009	16,882	24,201	33,515
	42,105	57,506	75,962	103,983	138,969

The increase has been spread fairly over all districts;—but in proportion to the population of the different districts, a much larger number apply for treatment at the dispensaries in Nagpore, Jubbulpore, Saugor and Raepore.

Finances of Dispensaries.

223. Dispensary finances show some improvement; the receipts having risen from Rs. 72,815 (£7,281) in the previous year, to Rs. 95,391 (£9,539) in the year under report. Of this latter sum, the amount contributed by Government was Rs. 36,639 (£3,664), the remainder being raised by private subscriptions, by grants from local funds, and by interest on invested capital. The expenditure on the other hand rose from Rs. 49,976 (£4,997) in 1865 to Rs. 63,305 (£6,330) in the year 1866. The average cost per case treated was Rs. 0-7-5 (11½*d*). The balance to the credit of dispensary Committees at the close of the year was, in cash Rs. 16,086 (£1,608) and in Government Securities Rs. 15,000 (£1,500).

224. In future years the apportionment of dispensary expenditure between the State and Local resources will be regulated on the principle laid down by the Supreme Government in the beginning of the present year. The main feature of that arrangement is that all charges on account of professional supervision, such as Surgeon's allowance, Native Doctors' salaries, and the like, will be defrayed from the general

revenues; while all other expenses on account of Dressers, Compounders, hospital servants, diet of patients, Indian drugs, and the like, will be borne by local contributions. Under this apportionment, about three-fifths of the whole cost of dispensaries will fall upon the State treasury, and two-fifths on local resources.

Vaccination department.

225. The operations of the special Vaccination department working in the Nagpore and Chindwara districts may be thus shown for the past and previous year:—

	1865-66.	1866-67.
Total number of people vaccinated ..	4,767	22,367
Number of successful cases ..	2,666	19,584

These figures show that progress has been made, both in the number operated on and in the percentage of successful cases. In the previous year the proportion of successful cases was 55½ per cent, in the past year it was 87½. In last year's report it was said that the people in the interior showed some reluctance in submitting their children to be vaccinated, notwithstanding all the explanation offered by the Superintendent and other Officers of Government. During the past season, however, a perceptible change took place, very soon after the return from leave of Doctor Brake, the Superintendent. Having reorganized his establishment and laid a foundation for a good supply of lymph at Nagpore, the Superintendent proceeded into the interior, vaccinating all who came forward, but still at places meeting with indifference or passive opposition. At length small-pox attacked a few towns, and soon became epidemic; the Superintendent here stepped in, and vaccinated all the children who were found unprotected. These escaped. In not one instance where a child was vaccinated, was it attacked by the disease. The news of this immunity soon spread to neighbouring villages and it then became a common occurrence for the Superintendent to be invited to visit particular villages, and, to quote the words of Doctor Brake, he was "frequently quite mobbed by the inhabitants of large towns and villages, all anxious that their children should not be forgotten."

All castes seemed to have thrown off all dislike or suspicion. The sex and age of the persons vaccinated are thus shown:—

Sex ...	Male ...	11,318	
	Female ...	11,049	
			22,367
Age ...	Under 1 year ...	5,213	
	From 1 to 5 years	13,656	
	„ 5 to 10 „	3,013	
	„ 10 to 15 „	390	
	„ 15 to 20 „	80	
	„ 20 to 25 „	4	
	„ above 25 „	11	
			22,367

Thus in the third year of operations a good beginning has been made and confidence established. Upon this basis the results in future years may be looked forward to with some confidence.

Lunatic Asylums.

226. The Lunatic Asylums at Nagpore and Jubbulpore were in full working order during the year 1866. A manual of rules for the management of these institutions was drawn up and prescribed for adoption. The admissions to the Nagpore Lunatic Asylum during the year 1866 were 39 males, and 7 females, making with the 33 remaining from the previous year, 79 under treatment during the year. Of these, 13 were cured and discharged, 1 relieved, 1 escaped, and 13 died. About two-thirds of the daily average number in the Asylum were employed in spinning thread, or in weaving coarse cloth, or in out-door labour in the gardens. The total cost of this institution during the year was Rs. 4,853 (£485), thus making an average cost for each lunatic of Rs. 91 (£9) per annum. At the Jubbulpore Asylum the admissions were 32 males and 3 females, making, with the 8 remaining from the previous year, 43 under treatment. Of these, 10 were discharged cured, and 2 relieved; 14 died. Arrangements for providing suitable employment for the inmates of this Asylum are as yet imperfect. The total cost of the institution during the year was Rs. 1,791 (£179), or at an average for each lunatic of Rs. 128 (£13).

Leper Asylum.

227. The Nagpore Leper Asylum shows 33 admissions, of whom 13 were relieved and discharged, 11 have died, and 9 remain. The institution is entirely supported from local resources, and cost Rs. 880 (£88) in the year 1866

Section X.—Public Health and Sanitation.

Vital Statistics.

228. It was explained in last year's report that the arrangements made for the registration of vital statistics were not so complete as could be wished, and no detailed notice of the result was offered. But the compilation of the statistics for a second year, makes it possible to offer the following general remarks on the subject.

Mode of collection.

229. The agency employed for the purposes of this registration is, in the larger towns, the Municipal Police; and in selected rural tracts, the District Police, and Putwarees, (village accountants); that is to say, registration has not been attempted for the Central Provinces as a whole, but for parts and sub-divisions all over the country, where it was ordinarily practicable. The results obtained through such an agency must be less reliable for the rural tracts, than for municipal towns, owing to the extent of the

area to be supervised, and to the difficulty of securing the report of all cases of births and deaths. Thus the registration of the past two years must be received with some allowance for possible error. And there is this difference between the two years, that in the former (1865-66) the results were deduced on the assumed population of the particular tracts or towns, in the latter on the regular census enumeration.

General death-rate.

230. The registration then for 1865-66 gave a death-rate of 33 per thousand souls among the urban population in 23 towns; and a death-rate of 26 per thousand among the rural population in 14 selected tracts, or 28 per thousand on the urban and rural population taken together. The deaths in that year were not separately given for males and females; or for infants and adults. For the past year (1866-67) the registration was spread over a wider area, including 104 towns, and 35 rural circles, taking in above a third of the total population of the country. Still, it has not been possible to arrange everywhere for the registry of births as well as deaths; but where such statistics have been collected, the results will be found among other deductions in the following abstract:—

	Urban.	*Rural.*
Deaths per 1,000 of population	25·09	12·76
Births, " " "	21·73	16·04
Inhabitants to 1 death	39·99	78·72
Female births to 100 male births.. ..	86·70	87·60
Female deaths to " deaths.. ..	76·77	77·61
Female population to 100 males	95·40	95·40
Infant deaths to 100 adult deaths.. ..	66·18	98·77
Deaths from fever per 100 deaths.. ..	51·98	53·23
" Cholera "	9·70	11·70
" Small-pox "	3·12	7·38
" Bowel diseases "	8·84	9·61
" other diseases "	23·39	15·58
" accidents or violence.. ..	1·97	2·50

Elements of error.

231. It were unnecessary perhaps to point out that the ab statistics for the rural tracts are still wholly reliable, for the reasons already advanced. But for the figures relating to urban population, a fair degree of accuracy may be claimed; with the single reservation perhaps as to births, which it is reasonable to presume would not at the outset be reported in all instances. Some doubts, too, may be raised as to the small proportion of infant, as compared with adult deaths. But on these and other points it would be hazardous in the present state of our knowledge of Indian vital statistics to pronounce one way or the other. It is lamentable to see so large a proportion as 52 and 53 per cent of the deaths, from fever,

in the town and rural tracts respectively. The 9¾ and 11¾ per cent of deaths from Cholera are due to the epidemic which prevailed in the districts of Sumbulpore, Raepore, Chanda, Bhundara, and the Upper Godavery District. Small-pox seems to have been more severe in the northern than in the southern and eastern districts, though there are few places which have entirely escaped its annual ravages. Out of 42,041 cases in which the causes of death have been registered there were 175 suicides, 429 deaths from accidental causes, 85 lives destroyed by wild beasts, and 173 by the bite of venomous snakes and other reptiles, and lastly 96 deaths from homicidal violence.

Deaths from different diseases.

232. The sanitary system established in towns and villages in these Provinces, was fully explained in last year's report under this Section. Wherever there is a resident Magistrate, honorary or stipendiary, there sanitation is enforced under the authority of Act V. of 1861. In the larger towns and cities it is regulated by bye-laws framed under the Municipal Acts XVIII. of 1864, and XV. of 1867; and in the Military Cantonments under Act XXII. of 1864. In scattered villages extending over a wide area it is a more difficult matter; but even there a rough conservancy system was introduced, and an actual commencement made in the previous year (1865-66). A translation of a set of "Village Conservancy Rules" has been placed in the hands of landholders; and occasional inspection by the District Officers suffices generally to secure a measure of cleanliness and observance of sanitary laws, which by degrees will become adequate to the condition of localities in the open country.

Sanitation.

233. It may be unnecessary to repeat here what has already been said in Section VII. Chapter IV. above in respect of Municipal improvements generally, or what has been described in Section IX. of this Chapter in respect of vaccination operations. That the public health has been benefitted by each and all of these measures may, perhaps, be fairly assumed; and though too much accuracy cannot be claimed for the mortuary tables above analysed, still it is a fact that they indicate some measure of improvement not altogether attributable to accident.

Improved health of the people.

234. The prohibition against certain annual religious gatherings within these Provinces,—whereat in past years Cholera first broke out, and spread far and wide in the track of retiring pilgrims, as explained in last year's report,—still continues to be observed, with the best results. But, notwithstanding such quarantine arrangements as could be made on the eastern frontier, the disease last year was brought into Sumbulpore by a few families of the Native Regiment there stationed, who marched up through Cuttack where it prevailed. From Sumbulpore it spread over the whole Chutteesgurh plateau and down into the

Prohibition of certain fairs.

Nagpore plain and along the country of the Godavery. The northern districts entirely escaped.

Wells in Chutteesgurh.

235. The measures for improving public health in the Chutteesgurh country by sinking wells, and thus securing a supply of pure drinking water, are being vigorously prosecuted. The latest returns show that, since these operations were begun, 296 wells have been completed, 623 more are nearly ready, and 2,332 are in progress. Grants of revenue free land are being sanctioned for landholders, who thus supply their villages with water. The very great boon which these wells will confer can be appreciated, when it is remembered that almost the whole of the population of that part of the country have to drink water from ponds, which by the end of the hot season become foul with all manner of organic matter.

SECTION XI.—IMPROVEMENT IN THE BREED OF HORNED CATTLE, HORSES, AND SHEEP.

Cattle breeding.

236. Although cattle breeding is common to almost every district in these Provinces, and large herds are kept by many of the wealthy landholders and native gentry; yet comparatively little attention is paid to the main canons of stock breeding. In some parts this neglect has resulted in a considerable deterioration of the local breed, necessitating large annual importations from abroad of plough and draught cattle. This condition of the cattle resources of the country, to which much of its agricultural backwardness was due, early attracted the attention of Mr. Temple. What has been done in the way of introducing bulls of a superior breed from Hissar, Mysore, and other places, has been fully explained in previous reports. The measure of success up to the present time has not been great, and some years of persistent effort must be expended before any permanent or general improvement can be effected. There are many difficulties besides in the way. It is held by some, not altogether without reason, that the bulls hitherto imported, are too large for the cows of the country. Perhaps, this may be true, so far as the small ordinary cows are concerned. But the large bulls might, by being crossed with a few good sized cows, lay the foundation for a large breed of cattle. Then there are the prejudices of the natives. They do not like large sized cattle, because it takes so much more to feed them, and their diminutive bullocks quite suffice to draw the little carts of the country. But in some districts a very fair beginning has been made, and some very promising calves of the previous seasons are growing up. There is no doubt, however, that the Hissar bull is much too large in the bone to cross with ordinary cows of these parts. The smaller Mysore, or Berar bull is the more suitable. Arrangements are accordingly being made for returning the Hissar bulls to the Government stud, and their place will be taken by the smaller kinds abovementioned.

237. Of the ten Government Stallions posted at selected stations at the close of 1865-66, there were two condemned as useless in the Nerbudda division, and one died at Jubbulpore. The total number of mares served during the year was 130.

Horse breeding

238. Sheep-breeding experiments have been carried on by Local Committees in some districts,—in others some foreign rams of good breed have been purchased, and made over to breeders. In the eastern districts of Chutteesgurh where sheep breeding is practised on a large scale for exportation, no measures of this kind appeared to be necessary, the local breed of sheep being also of a superior kind. The Dumoh Committee's farm showed some advance, in consequence of the improvements introduced the previous season, and the Deputy Commissioner is now prepared to supply good rams to other districts. At Nagpore the Local Committee have established a farm, on which they have some imported rams and ewes from Lahore. At Saugor a trial is being given to the Bikaneer breeds of sheep introduced during the past season.

Sheep breeding.

SECTION XII.—ELEPHANT CATCHING.

239. In last year's report it was stated the khedda (or elephant catching) establishment, which began operations in the hills near our Eastern frontier, had during the year 1865-66 captured 30 elephants. Further success has been obtained during the year under report; 47 elephants were caught in November 1866, and 40 more in March 1867. Of the animals taken in November, 17 died before they were fully tamed; the inclemency of the season, and a peculiar disease which attacked the animals while they were under training at Ruttunpore, in Chutteesgurh, appears to account for this large mortality. Of the elephants captured in March 1867, but very few have died.

Capture of wild elephants.

240. When the establishment of an elephant khedda at Belaspore was first proposed, it was supposed that there were about 200 elephants in the forests, and that there would be two years' work for the khedda. The establishment has now been two years at Belaspore; 117 elephants have been caught, and it is estimated that there are about fifty elephants left in the jungles, scattered in small herds of five or six animals, for the capture of which it would not be remunerative to maintain a khedda. Accordingly, the elephant catching establishment has, under the orders of the Supreme Government, been transferred to Cuttack.

Transfer of the khedda to Cuttack.

Results of the khedda operations.

241. The financial results of the two years' elephant catching may be thus shown :—

Cr.	Rupees.	Dr.	Rupees
43 full grown elephants reserved for Govt. purposes, valued at	66,000	Total expenditure on khedda operations from the commencement to the transfer of the establishment	80,000
19 under-sized young elephants sold by auction ..	17,100		
1 full-sized elephant made over to the Settlement department, valued at ..	2,000		
19 under-sized young elephants remaining to be sold, expected to fetch Rs. 600 each	11,400		
35 elephants died during their training	0	Difference, being estimated net profit on the khedda	16,500
117 elephants.			
Total, ..	96,500 (£9,650)		96,500 (£9,650)

It thus appears that the khedda establishment will have yielded a net profit of Rs. 16,500 (£1,650); that it will have secured 44 full-grown elephants for the Government service at a time when the demand for these useful animals is particularly great; and that it will have, to a considerable extent, freed the Belaspore district of wild elephants which used to do much damage to the crops, and prevented cultivation over considerable areas of rich country.

CHAPTER XV.

CONCLUSION.

242. It remains for me to notice the assistance specially rendered during the year by individual officers of this Administration. The opinions expressed in the subjoined paragraphs are based mainly on the remarks recorded by Mr. Temple, when he reviewed the services of the several Officers shortly before he left these Provinces.

243. The Judicial Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Campbell, has, by strict and constant supervision, maintained a good professional standard among Judicial Officers. Under his direction, the Courts are increasing in popularity; and their action is sufficiently prompt. Mr. R. E. Egerton officiated with entire efficiency as Judicial Commissioner for six months of the year. As Commissioner of Nagpore he set an excellent example of divisonal supervision. Mr. J. W. Neill has done good service as Registrar to the Judicial Commissioner's Court.

244. Mr. C. E. Bernard has continued to be a most useful Secretary in all Civil Departments. My thanks are specially due to him for drawing up this report. Lieutenant Bloomfield has done much good work as Assistant Secretary.

245. The office of Settlement Commissioner was filled during the whole year by myself. Among the divisional Commissioners,—Major Hector Mackenzie's supervision over all branches of the administration, has been of first-rate quality. Mr. A C. Lyall gave high promise of efficiency during the six months he officiated as Commissioner of Nagpore. He has also rendered much valuable assistance in editing the "Central Provinces' Gazetteer" and in preparing a Manual of Laws applicable to these Provinces. Colonel J. K. Spence has always been known to be a good Judicial Officer. And this year he filled very successfully the post of President of the Jubbulpore Exhibition Committee.

246. Among the Deputy Commissioners, Mr. Temple selected

Colonel J. N. H. Maclean.	Captain A. B. Cumberl-
Mr. M. Low.	Mr. W. B. Jones.

as having done the best during the year. The following Deputy Com-

missioners also deserve mention, as having done very well:—

Captain C. B. Lucie Smith.	Mr. J. W. Chisholm.
" H. F. Newmarch.	Mr. H. Read.
" M. P. Ricketts.	

247. Among the Assistant Commissioners, specially good work has been done by—

Captain J. L. Loch.	Captain H. I. Lugard.
" H. C. E. Ward.	Lieutenant J. W. Macdougall.
Lieutenant M. M. Bowie.	Mr. G. J. Nicholls.
Mr. J. Beddy.	Mr. T. Drysdale.
Lieutenant J. Temple.	

248. Among the Settlement Officers—

Mr. A. J. Lawrence.	Mr. A. M. Russell.
Mr. J. F. K. Hewitt.	Lieutenant J. Forsyth.
Mr. J. W. Chisholm.	

have done excellent work.

249. Major F. L. Magniac, who was absent on furlough during the previous year, has now restored the Nagpore Small Cause Court to more than its former popularity. His services as Registrar General of Assurances have been most useful in organizing the Registration Department. The lamented death of Mr. F. Macnaghten, who had for years presided with much success over the Jubbulpore Small Cause Court, was a loss to the Judicial Department.

250. Captain E. M. Playfair has discharged satisfactorily the heavy judicial and miscellaneous duties pertaining to the large Cantonment of Kamptee. Major H. F. Bartlett has also done very well, as Cantonment Magistrate of Saugor.

251. Among the Extra-Assistant Commissioners the following have been useful:—

Mr. F. St. C. Williams.	Tajoodeen Hossein.
Mr. W. Munton.	Mr. S. Hennessy.
Oulad Hossein.	Fazlool Kadir.
Azeezoodeen.	Poorshuttum Rao.
Ashfaq Hossein.	

252. Of the officers engaged in ministerial duties, the services of Mr. G. Barclay, Superintendent of the Secretariat, have been especially useful,—commendation is also due to Mr. W. A. Russell and Mr. J. S. Hannagan, Head Clerks of the Nerbudda and Jubbulpore Divisional Offices.

253. The Inspector General of Police, Lieutenant Colonel H. D. Taylor, has directed his important department with care, tact, and ability. The relations of the Police Force to the Magistrates are correctly defined and properly maintained; and its organization is becoming popular with the people.

Of the Officers subordinate to the Inspector General, the following were commended by Mr. Temple:—

Captain F. G. Steuart.	Mr. J. M. Berrill.
Lieut.-Col. G G. Moxon.	Mr. M. P. Hanken.
Captain W. J. Morris.	Captain J. D. Vallance.
" H. Fraser.	Mr. R. Hamilton.
Mr. J. Higgins.	

254. In the Educational Department, Major P. Dods has performed his duties as Director with zeal and efficiency. Mr. Colin Browning, Inspector of the Southern Circle, has by his diligent and careful supervision given an impulse to education in the Nagpore country. Lieutenant G. H. Trevor, besides performing his educational duties, filled with complete success the post of Secretary to the Jubbulpore Exhibition Committee.

255. The Inspector of Prisons and Dispensaries, Dr. R. T. Abbott, has continued to direct satisfactorily the management of these institutions.

256. In the department of Account, Mr. W. Biss, the Deputy Accountant General, has conducted business efficiently; and has promoted the prompt and punctual preparation of all accounts. Mr. G. W. Cline, L. L. D., has effectively directed the operations of the Nagpore Currency Circle.

257. In the Public Works Department. the Office of Chief Engineer was held by Colonel W. Maxwell for nine months of the year. He has now left these Provinces. But he materially raised the professional standard of the department; and the many practical and useful reforms which he introduced will remain after him. It is due to his good sense and energy that brick has given place to stone in all public buildings of the Nagpore country. Major C. Pollard, though joining the Chief Engineership late in the year, has already proved himself a first-rate Chief Engineer. Major F. Haig, R. E., has returned with recovered health to the Godavery Works, which he is now pushing on with his accustomed zeal and energy. Captain C. J. Meade, Superintending Engineer, is doing much to educate in certain branches of their profession the Engineers of the Southern Circle.

Among the Executive and Assistant Engineers, the following have done good service during the year:—

Mr. J. W. O'Donnell.	Mr. H. Bell.
Mr. R. Tyndall.	Mr. F. L. O'Callaghan.
Lieutenant W. M. Roberts.	Mr. F. Johnston.
Captain H. R. Faber.	Mr. J. Whiting.

Captain J. B. Prior, Controller of Public Works Accounts, has rigorously maintained punctuality and order in the accounts of the Public Works and of Local Funds.

258. In the Railway Department, Major St. J. Hovenden and Lieutenant G. W. Oldham, Royal Engineers, have rendered much assistance to this Administration in all matters connected with the progress of railways through the Central Provinces.

259. In the Forest Department, Major G. F. Pearson performed with all his usual energy and knowledge the important duties of Conservator. Lieutenants J. C. Doveton and W. Douglas ably and successfully managed their respective forest divisions.

260. Mr. H. Rivett-Carnac, Cotton Commissioner of the Central Provinces, has with tact and energy instituted many measures which will eventually improve the cotton cultivation in these parts. His zeal to protect the interests of the cotton trade deserves much praise.

261. Major J. Ashburner and Captain C. B. Lucie Smith have done important service to the country and to the Government, by their arduous and successful search for coal in their respective districts.

262. Mr. W. E. Money and Mr. F. W. Vere have continued during the year their excellent supervision of the Customs Department in these Provinces.

Mr. G. M. Jones, Mr. T. Martin and Mr. H. Ives, also deserve mention as zealous and successful Collectors of Customs.

263. Mr. C. W. Hutchinson, Chief Inspector of Post Offices, has done much to improve the postal service, and to extend its usefulness in these Provinces. Mr. F. J. Jordan, Superintendent of Mail Carts, has also rendered good assistance in securing the prompt passage of the European and Bombay Mails across this part of India.

264. In the Professional Survey department, Captain R. E. Oakes, Major J. Macdonald, and Colonel G. H. Saxton have ably executed a considerable amount of useful work.

265. Among the Medical Officers, Dr. S. C. Townsend has performed excellent service as Superintendent of the Nagpore Central Jail, and as Sanitary Officer of the City of Nagpore. Dr. John Brake has, by dint of personal zeal and tact, made the Vaccination department popular with the people of the Nagpore Province. Among the remain-

ing Civil Surgeons :—

Dr. W. R. Rice.	Dr. W. R. Grylls.
Dr. J. Law.	Dr. H. A. Kidd.
Dr. D. W. Trimnell	Mr. T. King.

have done well.

Mr. R. D. Nuthall and Lieut. J. Johnstone performed with energy and zeal, amidst some personal danger, the duties of Superintendent of elephant kheddas.

266. Most, if not all the Officers mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs have on former occasions received Mr. Temple's acknowledgments for their good service. Many of them owe their professional efficiency and success to his teaching or to the system he organized. I would conclude this Chapter by expressing my earnest hope that the healthy tone and the high sense of public duty, which have grown up under Mr. Temple's administration, may long continue to characterize the Officers of the Central Provinces.

NAGPORE:
The 30th June 1867.

J. H. MORRIS.